

The Enterprise.

J. W. HOUGHTON, M. H. HOUGHTON.
EDITORS.

The House has, by a large majority, passed a bill to create a new cabinet officer, a Secretary of Agriculture. It is thought that it cannot pass the Senate. This is considered a more ornamental than useful appendage to the cabinet.

BETLER's campaign is said to have cost him \$100,000, and he has been obliged to mortgage his Washington property to secure a loan of \$90,000. What returns he has to compensate him for this outlay, it will probably take some time for him to determine. We think he will not be a candidate for President on his own account in 1888.

The figures following show the average vote at the late Presidential election for representative Electors in the States named:

Indiana.....	38,088
Kansas.....	37,911
Ohio.....	37,371
New Jersey.....	37,267
Michigan.....	36,554
Alabama.....	19,224
Louisiana.....	18,207
Mississippi.....	17,321
Georgia.....	14,284
South Carolina.....	13,071

Now it is our special solicitude to be very amiable, but we do not think it fair that 14,284 votes in Georgia should count as much as 37,371 in Ohio, or 13,071 in South Carolina as much as 38,088 in Indiana. We hope the advocacy of the removal of such disparities is not necessarily sectional and inflammatory.—[Commercial Gazette.

CARLYLE pays a grand tribute to the character of his father, who was a godly stone-mason in Scotland, when he writes: "The force that had been lent my father he honorably expended in well-doing. A portion of this planet bears beneficent traces of his strong hand and strong head. Nothing he undertook to do but he did it faithfully and like a true man. I shall always look on the houses he built with a certain proud interest. They stand firm and sound to the heart all over his little district." Such a character we instinctively admire. Its rugged honesty attracts us. It exhibits an energy which proceeds from the fear of God. At the centre of character there is always a governing principle. This may be one thing or another—may be a remembrance of God or a regard for the devil, may be a holy resolution or a weak sentiment. Still it is there and it is influential. It resembles the point of crystallization around which cluster the strange forms and colors of Nature's workmanship. Character will surely be determined by this central principle or supreme choice. When you come to know a man intimately you become acquainted with his supreme choice and then you can explain his conduct. For what can you expect of one whose supreme choice is the selfish desire to please himself, or to be as free from care as possible, or to get rid of the annoyances which interest in human distress will bring with it? What will a life yield whose supreme choice is vice? What force can be derived from a nature which is listless and indifferent? What noble service has ever been rendered when the supreme choice has been a preference for the interests which antagonize liberty and religion?—[Henry L. Booth, D. D.

THE Southern Exposition Company have conceived a magnificent scheme to advance Southern interests at the expense of the general Government, by asking an appropriation of one thousand dollars to each Congressional district and half a million dollars for increased accommodations and for a still larger sum, as a loan which there is no probability of being paid, altogether amounting to millions, and innocently say, "The money to be appropriated will not be missed from the Treasury." It begins to look as though the South expected to get pay for its loss in the war and for the emancipation of its slaves, indirectly if not directly. If the South would attend to business, deal justly with the agricultural classes of their own section, encourage emigration by social and political toleration of Northern men, they might soon see their section on the sure road to prosperity without the necessity of asking aid from the general government.

But so long as they continue to deny political rights to all who are not Southern in their sentiments, so long as they continue to defy the will of the majority by resorting to intimidation, violence and bloodshed, they should be allowed to paddle their own canoe. A national or a world's exposition might justify the asking of aid from the general government, but nothing less. Once open the doors to such local and sectional demands and it will soon be found that "the money to be appropriated will be missed from the treasury" and since it is suggested that this is to be the beginning of a series of them, it will be wise to call a halt before we begin.

We seriously question, also, whether the advantages obtained by such expensive and luxurious exhibitions are sufficient to warrant the outlay, and whether, in many instances, they do not contribute more to the income of the officers and managers in charge of them than to the agricultural and mechanical interests of the dear people whose interests are ostensibly being promoted. In any event it is safer to trust all such schemes to private enterprise rather than enter a road that opens up unlimited demands upon the public treasury.

IMMODERATE SPENDING AND IN-TEMPERATE GOING.

A Plea for the Home.

BY MRS. J. W. HOUGHTON.

The tendencies of modern civilized life are toward a foolish pride, unworthy ambition and ruinous extravagance. The number of people governed by these motives is sufficient to cause apprehension. When the foundations were laid which made this a prosperous nation, the surplus of earnings after providing for modest necessities, was laid by to accumulate toward establishing a home, reserving for a time of need or for maintenance in old age.

Those things which were in excess of comfort were not usually indulged in by the young householder. It was thought wise as soon as possible to own a home. Fine clothing and handsome furniture were not the first things purchased by those having small wages or scanty income. Velvet and silk were not considered the suitable every-day dress of school-girls, even among the wealthy; and garments of expensive material were carefully worn and long preserved.

It is different now. Moderate wages or a small income and no home at all, are not allowed to be an obstacle to the attainment of present luxuries. Plush and brocade, lace and fur, are worn by the daughter of the wash-woman as well as by the heir of the prosperous merchant or manufacturer; and are the garb of the servant as well as the mistress. The wife of the struggling clerk, shifting from year to year in rented apartments, often displays more prompt conformity to the changes of style than the wife of the employer; and it is the latter, many times, who feels the necessity of being moderate in her desires, prudent in her expenditures, economical of her time and conscientiously industrious.

When the bulk of earnings is spent for show, there must be pinching and discomfort for want of plain necessities, and discontent, unreasonableness and irritability because of that want. Among the causes of unhappiness in married life and consequent separations, enumerated by the "Ohio Divorce Reform League" are: "Dislike of restraint, love of excitement, and class emulation which leads the poor to live beyond their means." The young woman with neither skill nor experience to command more than moderate wages in factory or house service, who instead of buying clothing contributing to her health and comfort, making her well dressed because suitably dressed, and a credit to her sense and taste, prefers the outside show of one or two silk dresses, a cloak beyond her means and two or three hats a year, is not the kind of girl whom a poor young man may safely marry. And how wanting in self respect and delicacy and dignity must be a wife who is given to nagging her husband for luxuries they cannot afford to buy; yet the disclosures of the divorce courts point to this as a common rock on which the happiness of the marital ship has foundered.

But inordinate desire for things that money may procure is not peculiar to woman alone. Before clerk or apprentice has sufficient experience to be profitable, they want an advance in wages. So rapidly does the average beginner—there are exceptions, of course—obtain extravagant ideas and an ambition to live better than he is doing, that he has no rational opinion as to what is equitable between employer and employed. The boy is scarcely emerged from the chrysalis of plain clothing in which he came to his situation, before he has a watch and chain, aspires to jewelry and affects an appearance of great prosperity.

His cigars speedily become a daily necessity, and he buys of the newsboy whether he reads or not. He patronizes the soda fountain, the fruit and lemonade stand when his employer would pass them by. He cannot shave himself when the incident down appears, it looks so manly to see his cup in the barber's case. He hires a livery at two or three dollars a Sunday while his wages are still two or three dollars a week, and he is only learning to make himself useful in shop, factory or store. As he gets older and his wages are advanced, his wants multiply, and his style is correspondingly increased. The freshness of his wardrobe, the frequency of his pleasure trips, the presents he feels able to give, are all out of proportion to what he can really afford. If he marries and sets up in housekeeping, he wants to begin beyond any attainment of father and mother, and to pattern after the style of very prosperous families.

When such false notions prevail, it is not difficult to trace from cause to effect the startling number of delinquencies, business failures, cases of financial and domestic despair, and frequently insanity, crime and suicide. There was never a time when strict uprightness, unswerving integrity, absolute adherence to individual duty, were more demanded to preserve the balance between right and wrong than now. There cannot be comfort, security and prosperity for honest and Christian people without conscientiousness in money-getting, and absolute independence, good sense and prudence in money spending. Merely to follow the example of the majority is not safe or right because there has been too much of that, and the result has been disastrous.

There is among the uninformed a prevalent belief that wages are not in proportion to the dividends invested in business. From the farm to the factory, employees are restless, and feel that they are defrauded if employers after furnishing capital, paying taxes, insurance, help, and all expenses, taking all the care, assuming all

the risks, and bearing all the losses, do not divide all the profits in increased wages. No account is made of the fact that wages stand in relation to the worth of the work to the business, and not as a necessary counter-balance to meet fictitious desires. The real income from capital in business is over-estimated by the inexperienced, because its constant, unforeseen expenditures are not apparent. Buildings, machinery, stock, waste and wear, breakage, progress in invention, changes in style, competition in trade, all mean increased outlay and uncertainty about the corresponding returns: while much capital is borrowed, and its interest must be met regularly and promptly, and its safety guaranteed.

The spirit of communism which recognizes no law in the distribution and ownership of property, except the law of selfishness; and the absurd and unjust jealousy of the thriftless against those who accumulate, mainly because they work harder and spend less or more wisely than those who seem less fortunate,—this spirit is at the bottom of labor strikes, incendiarism and all their attendant evils; and whoever excites to bitterness and discontent, or puts mistaken ideas into the minds of the uninformed, calculated to prejudice the employed against the employer, labor against capital, or ignorance against intelligence, is an enemy of the artisan and laborer, and a destroyer of social peace, and financial stability upon which all classes depend.

In considering the relation of family life to business integrity, it is plain that woman can do more than simply to put a check upon her vanity. There are boundaries to her duty as there are limitations to her strength; and one only needs to note the weekly announcements from pulpit and press,—calls for meetings in the interests of religious, benevolent and reformatory work,—to say nothing of social obligations not to be escaped, and attentions to the sick and the stranger, to see why it is that trying to respond to every demand, so many efficient, helpful women, well qualified for usefulness anywhere, break down under this ceaseless conscription for our side work. Through a mistaken and morbid conscientiousness, fostered by the intemperate urging of leaders, many a home has lost its mother, and many another been defrauded of that which rightly belonged to it. The great bulk of all this religious and benevolent work is done by those who also are the truest ideals of women in their own homes, and it is because of their largeness of mind and heart, and willingness to do, that their sympathies grasp the wrongs and woes of the whole world, and they are ready to sacrifice themselves in their desire to relieve and bless all human kind.

But parents, young people and children spend too much time outside of home, look for happiness and diversion too much away from it. It is difficult to maintain what one believes to be right in one's own family, so contagious and universal is the example of children always playing in crowds; girls perpetually over-dressed, at leisure, and promenading, or in company; boys with nothing to do out of school but to seek their own pleasure. With this continual craving for society, and avoidance of repose, of quiet thought, of opportunity for study and undisturbed work, the physical energies are dissipated, the mind is enervated and the heart is demoralized. If the home life is characterized by perpetual hurry, and made chiefly a place in which to eat and sleep, it can never reach a very high standard of excellence. But how, it is asked, is all this to be helped? The habits and necessities of business and professional life demand all the father's strength, nearly all his time. The genius of invention has extended even into our homes the anatomy of the great active world, whose restless pulses beat on forever, whose intrusive call has all hours for its own, and we listen for messages that are too important for the tardy mail, and too voluminous for the telegraph; but it is one more element to break in upon the restful quiet which tired brain and nerves seek vainly for in the modern home. We cannot turn the wheels of progress backward, but we must begin a process of elimination, rejecting the apparent duties, reserving only the real ones.

Family love and domestic virtues must be more generally cultivated, and carefully cherished, to save the home from disintegration. Women must honor the service belonging to the home and family. Parents must set the example and children be taught: that there is dignity in simplicity; happiness in industry; virtue in genuineness; that show and sham are ignoble; that very much idleness, or luxury, or amusement, or indulgence makes the child, dress neither better or happier, hinders them from becoming capable men and women, is the opposite of the spirit of Christianity, is unwholesome for individuals and disastrous to any people. With every good cause begging for co-operation, clamoring for members and support, and run by complicated machinery demanding time, money, personal devotion and strength, no one woman has lives enough to give to them all. With weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual and district meetings, not to mention the special gatherings of officers and committees, for counsel and laying out of work, the year is not made with afternoons enough to attend to them all, and meet also the necessities that rise up, a legion, to confront the mother in her own home; who however wise to plan and swift to execute, is over-borne with what she is seldom able to delegate to other hands and must accomplish with her own.

If the children are not left to seek doubtful companionship in kitchen or street, the mother, in the majority of families

must stay with them. If their training, moral, religious or educational must be "put out," the public school be their chief educator; their companions, their reading and their amusements be mainly of their own choosing; and their ideas on most subjects gathered at random—and if it be true that "every word spoken within the hearing of a child tends toward the formation of character," what wonder that stubborn peculiarities, tastes and propensities not accounted for in their parentage, shock the family pride, and startle the apprehension when it is too late to undo the harm?

To what better use can mother's talent or father's wisdom or the learning of both be put than to be giving of their best as much as possible every day in developing, aiding, directing the young minds committed to their especial care? The mother alone cannot make the home all it should be. Would politics suffer greatly or the government be less stable if there was less intemperate talk, fewer clubs, and unions, less writing and reading, even, previous to election? Since voluminousness of testimony only serves to confuse and mislead, how much is gained for either side by the heated conflict and vain repetition? The home and the children need both father and mother, and closer mutual acquaintance would edify and profit the parents as much as the children.

Duty cannot war with itself. There must be a mistake somewhere; and if the institution of the family is not an error of Divine Judgment it is worthy of better attention. It is a case where faithful work at the primaries will bring good results at the polls. Personal observation, individual effort, enthusiasm and devotion, here, will pay larger revenues, or be more economic to the nation, than any afterthought of penal and reformatory appropriations elsewhere placed. No co-operative plan will answer the purpose in child-training. The hired servant, the public institution, the Church and the Sunday School fall short, though doing each their best, and little ones left almost or altogether to themselves, and to these, are orphans still, within whose morbid breasts will spring up masters from which not they, nor we, nor the united watchcare of parent, teacher and church can rescue them; for

"Ill habits gather by unseen degrees,"
and as insensibly
"As brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas."
—[N. Y. Christian Advocate.

He Thanks His Paper.

Mr. Editor:—I was induced by reading your good paper to try Dr. Harter's Iron Tonic for debility, liver disorder and scrofula, and three bottles have cured me. Accept my thanks. Joe. C. Boggs.—Ex. 4914.

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