

# The Call

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1899

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### AMUSEMENTS.

Columbia—"The Sirenade," to-morrow night. Orpheum—Vaudeville. Grand Opera House—"The Black Hussar." Alcazar—"Nerves." Tivoli—"The Bohemian Girl." Alhambra—"Saved From the Flames." Chutes, Zoo and Free Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening. Olympia—Corner Mason and Ellis streets, specialties. California Theater—Jan Maclaren, Wednesday evening, April 5. Association Auditorium—Concert, Wednesday evening, April 5. Grand Opera House—Sauer Recitals, Wednesday afternoon, April 12. Grand Opera House—Rosenthal, Tuesday afternoon, April 25. Glen Park—Mission Zoo. Union Course Park—Coursing to-day. Recreation Park—Baseball.

### SUPPRESS INDECENT EXHIBITIONS.

THE art of printing came to be prostituted to vile uses, and law was found to be necessary to prevent baseness utilizing it for the purpose of propagating vice. The fight was a long one and it involved very serious problems, but it was won and the principle is settled that printing cannot be made the vehicle of corruption. The same legal principle has been applied to photography and graphic art, and those who offended by their misuse have been hunted down and driven out of their reprehensible business. The greed of men, feeling among filth for profit, driven out of other fields, seems to have resorted to the new electrical devices to turn a dirty nickel out of the phonograph and the various moving pictures shown in the vitascope, mutoscope and various other scopes, which, limited to right uses, are the means of innocent amusement and instruction.

The investigations recently made by The Call make necessary legal restraint of the owners and operators of these ingenious machines in this city. We do not say where the official authority rests for the needed action, but it is evidently in the same hands as the enforcement of the laws which prevent the noxious use of printing and photography. Our public records and correctional institutions are full of evidences of the precocity of vice, and the means for its production should be stamped out as poison to society.

All of the moral tutelage of the home and the upright principles inculcated in school may come to naught by a chance contact with evil suggestion. Experience teaches that spontaneous moral weakness, not the fruit of external design, is responsible for quite enough wickedness and sorrow to employ all the forces of moral guardianship, without loading these with the responsibility of protecting the immature from the open attacks of the vicious enemies of innocence and order. The streets and resorts of a great city should be purged of suggestion that takes root in the immature mind, and that which gratifies aged depravity should be denied open flaunting on the streets, where its enjoyment by the already morally rotten offends decency.

The many "scopes" and "graphs" which shame the world by converting the useful discoveries of science, intended for the elevation of man, into the instruments of his degradation, should be restored to their pious purpose, and those who divert them to wicked uses should be punished and their further practices in that direction prevented by the stern hand of the law.

To this end the community demands the fullest use of the police powers of the Government for the moral as well as the physical sanitation of the city. It is no answer to this demand to say that these enormities are permitted in other cities elsewhere, for wherever permitted they are a reproach to society and the odium of those legally charged to protect it from moral disease. While it is a settled principle that men cannot be made moral by statute any more than a statute can make them healthy, it is also a settled principle that the law can suppress a moral as well as a physical nuisance, and leave man to be the victim only of spontaneous causes leading to his spiritual or physical undoing.

Fifteen citizens of Lake City, S. C., are to be tried for having lynched the postmaster, killed his babe and burned the office. Yet they have the undisputed defense that the postmaster was a colored man, and this is understood to be good in South Carolina.

Germany is to "provisionally" seize a portion of China, but with no intention of holding it. If there are any marines who have not heard a story for a while, this would be a good one to tell them.

The son of ex-Mayor Strong seems to be fighting bravely in the Philippines, and has received a wound which would create much sympathy for him save for his expressed determination to write a book.

The story of the Salinas family who intend to crucify themselves on the 5th of the month was printed on the 1st. They could not have selected a more appropriate date.

There are moments when one cannot help but suspect the American forces in the Philippines to consist largely of Funston of Kansas and Creelman of Yellow Journalism.

This fad of sending messenger boys from London is not accomplishing much, but it is giving the boys a chance to see a large and impressive world.

There seems to be much left to the discretion of Otis, and the gentleman seems to have a large supply of discretion to leave it to.

The youngsters who stole a pig have been caught. It seems that their booty squealed on them.

### EASTER DAY.

THE total number of orthodox Christians in the world has been closely estimated at 477,080,158. To every one of these persons nominally, and to most of them actually, the Resurrection is a fact, accepted by them as established by incontrovertible evidence, which also proves the immortality of individualized life, and thus furnishes inexpressible consolation for the struggles, the pain, the separations, the disappointments, under which from the beginning of time mankind has groaned. If to this enormous mass of human beings we add the total number who have lived and died in the same belief since the dawn of the Christian era, the whole constitutes such a demonstration of faith, such a manifestation of what Mr. Gladstone called "the influence of authority in matters of opinion," as renders Easter a central point in history and reduces materialism in all its forms to an insignificant factor in civilization.

It is not for a secular newspaper to discuss the theological aspects of this festival, but some of its phases are of universal interest and importance. From the earliest records of the human race it is apparent that the law of contrast, the opposing elements and forces set loose in the world, visible and invisible, have demanded explanation and solution. Light and darkness, heat and cold, storm and calm, and other similar natural phenomena, each of which was obviously essential to the comprehension of the other, were explicable to the simplest mind. But the mysteries of good and evil, the successes of wickedness, the failures of virtue, the inroads of disease, the poignant tortures that were the accompaniments of developed intellect and sensibility, the brevity of those close relationships of which love was the cement, wrought humanity into an intolerable doubt, fear and anguish that, from within itself, was beyond relief. There seemed to be a necessity for a prolongation of life beyond the grave to rectify apparent injustice and to supply compensations for misery and for failure. Thus out of individual experiences and reflection the world was prepared for the doctrine of the resurrection. It has been sometimes claimed that the Old Testament does not refer to the perpetuation of human life, but there, as in secular and contemporaneous literature, this aspiration of man is expressed and its truth declared and illustrated. Centuries after their death it is recorded that the divine proclamation was issued, fraught with the assurance of immortality. "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Job was in the depth of his agony he is accredited with saying, "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Isaiah, in his majestic phrase, gave the same assurance—"The dead men shall live; together with my body shall they arise." Habakkuk, in his impressive memorial, some passages in which are the climax of eloquence, tersely expressed "the desire of nations" in the declaration, "We shall not die." David, stung with grief while his child was in mortal agony, ceased to mourn when he was dead, and said, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." Of Elijah it is related that he accomplished the work of raising from the dead the widow of Zarephath. "The soul of the child came into him again and he revived." A similar miraculous resurrection is attributed to Elisha in the case of the child of the Shunamite.

These references are made in this place not especially because they are found in the Bible, but for the reason that they gather up and enforce the answer to the deepest problems to which the intellect and the heart of the race were attracted. It was on these lines that the education of the world advanced toward the higher civilization that the festival of Easter emblems. Belief in the individualized immortality of the human soul is not monopolized by Christianity, but it is there formulated into the specific doctrine of the Resurrection, which is common to all orthodox believers, however discordant on other points. When Paul confronted King Agrippa he inquired, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you that God should raise the dead?" And in order to show the pivotal importance of the Easter conception to the higher life of man, both spiritual and intellectual, he wrote that unequalled chapter in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, in which he concentrated his underlying thought in the question, "If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me if the dead rise not?" and, as the alternative to his faith, reproduced the language of Isaiah, "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

In its practical influence upon human progress and upon advancing civilization Easter is the festival of festivals. It meets the deepest necessities of man. It lifts him above himself and into the faithful recognition of responsibilities and duties that distinguish him from all other forms of organic life. It leads him to the embrace of an aspiring fraternity. It sanctifies the domestic affections and assures him that death is but temporary separation and that reunion with those who have reached his heart on earth is not a delusion but a certainty. It assures to him the growth and the identity of his own soul, protects him against the most virulent evils that assail him, and fits him for the future that prophet, sage and martyr have anticipated for him.

Easter is set as a jewel in the bosom of spring. It is surrounded by analogies which strengthen the convictions that it typifies. Nature is resurrected from the death of winter, and the springing grass, the protruding bud, the tinted flower, attest the universality of life and that the lapse of vitality is but a process of quickening and of reorganization. There is an Irish legend that on Easter morning the sun dances in the sky, and it is certain that wherever the harmonious chimes of this mighty tribute to eternity are heard light and warmth touch the human heart to finer issues and to a nobler ambition.

FROM the London Chronicle we learn that the Birmingham City Council recently conferred the freedom of the city upon Mr. John Thackray Bunce, who has just retired from the editorship of the Birmingham Daily Post after a service of thirty-seven years. The Lord Mayor, in proposing the resolution, stated that the Council recognized that the progress of the municipality was due in a large measure to the judicious criticism Mr. Bunce had unsparingly shown in his journal. The item is of some interest as an illustration of the relations which exist in Great Britain between the press and public officials, but its chief value is the statement of the recognition of the service which unsparing newspaper criticism renders to municipal progress. The relations between the press and municipal authorities are not the same here as in England, but the service of the press is essentially the same in both countries. It is not at all likely that we shall soon see in the United States any incident parallel to that of the Birmingham Council. As a rule our municipal officials are not capable of appreciating the value of the criticism to which their acts are subjected, and even when they are conscious of its usefulness they rarely have

manliness enough to admit it, much less to commend it. Fortunately the effectiveness of the service is not dependent upon official acknowledgment. The press does its work, and whether that work be approved or denounced, it adds its strength to the forces which tend to municipal improvement.

The critic is too often regarded as a mere fault-finder. It would be more accurate to regard him as a truth-finder, since it is his task to weigh all things and seek out what is for the true welfare of the community. If a city lacked the testing power of an unsparing criticism it would be exposed to a thousand shams in the garb of reform and a thousand jobs bearing the specious guise of improvements. It would make no progress, because its energies would be wasted in a hundred devious channels instead of being directed along the one channel in which real progress is possible.

It would hardly be an overstatement to say that criticism and progress are inseparable. Where criticism exists and is free there must be progress, since its stimulus, incessantly applied to officials and to citizens alike, renders stagnation impossible in a community possessing any faculties of activity at all. On the other hand, it is doubtful if there would be any notable progress in a community lacking in criticism, since the natural inertia of men in office would cause them to rest content with their salaries in idleness forever unless some power forced them to action. Taking all things into consideration, the Birmingham Council did well in conferring the freedom of their city upon the unsparing critic of thirty-seven years' service. It is safe to say the honor has been conferred upon many a military hero or national statesman who was less worthy of it. The service of an editor is not of the kind that officials generally like to admit, but there is scarcely a city anywhere in the United States of which it might not be said that its municipal progress is in a large measure due to the unsparing criticism of its local press.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the Examiner, answers our question with reference to its leadership in the last campaign by saying that had The Call united with it in promoting Democratic success Judge Maguire would now be Governor, a Democrat would be comfortably installed in the Federal Senate, Mr. Huntington would not be in control of the Railroad Commission, and Governor Gage would not possess the power to drag the government down to the Burns level by manipulating the patronage of State and city.

All this may be true, but our contemporary pursues the subject a trifle further and tell us what good would have been accomplished had the government been given this political complexion? What did the late Democratic Railroad Commission do toward settling the transportation problems of the commonwealth? True, it is alleged that it caused Mr. Huntington to depart hurriedly from the State, but what good did that accomplish? Mr. Huntington has returned, as fresh and chipper as ever. The late commission did not reduce rates of transportation, or ameliorate any of the evils incident to railroading in California. Being at loggerheads with the Southern Pacific, it could not even secure for shippers the ordinary courtesies which are always granted to a commission friendly in character.

So far as Judge Maguire goes, we are not prepared to say that he would have been any improvement upon Mr. Gage. Maguire is a patronage cormorant, and his head is filled with "reform" ideas which are more or less disconcerting. We believe, and have always said, that as men go Judge Maguire is honest, but we do not believe that politically he is sincere, or that if he were Governor he would even attempt to redeem many of his extravagant platform promises. He would simply sit down, as most Governors do, and figure upon getting as many places for his friends as possible, without reference to the interests of the taxpayers.

### MORE EXPLANATION DEMANDED.

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However, political parties are judged by their records. Will our contemporary point out to us anything accomplished by the local administration which preceded the present one of a substantial or lasting character. The city government was absolutely the worst we have had for ages, and it was entirely Democratic. The State government was fairly well conducted, but we beg to remind our contemporary that, with the exception of the Governor, it was Republican. At the present time we are not prepared to admit that a Democratic Senator at Washington would be an improvement upon no Senator at all.

### PARTIES TO BURN.

MR. J. STERLING MORTON, by way of showing that the conservatism of Nebraska can be as woolly as the radicalism of Kansas, proposes to organize a new party. It is his opinion that the time is ripe for a wholesale departure of good citizens from the old parties. He is quoted as having said in a recent interview:

"The late war and its momentous issues; the struggle of the two great parties over bimetalism; the rise, decline and absolute decay of Populism—all these elements contribute to a situation as pregnant as those which gave birth to the Republican party on the approach of our civil strife. My investigation teaches me that the time is ripe. I do not care to pose particularly as the head of the new movement, therefore I will not at the present go into details. But I will say before July 4 a call will be issued outlining the plan and it will be signed by men of national fame and of tried political worth."

While Mr. Morton, exhalting the odors of embalmed Clevelandism, is thus rallying the hosts of a moribund conservatism, Mr. Pingree of Michigan, who plays Populist variations on Republican harmonies; is sweating the collar of him to organize a new party on progressive lines.

Furthermore, a set of New England men eminent in Boston, Duxbury and towns of that kind, propose to organize still another party, being fully persuaded, like Morton and Pingree, that existing organizations are inadequate to the political needs of the time and of the people. This movement is headed by Edward F. Hale, and its object is to extinguish the war spirit of the people, establish international arbitration and uphold the hands of the milk-white Czar at the coming peace conference which that imperial friend of humanity called for just before he decided to crush Finland.

Here, then, are three novelties in the way of political organizations to be put upon the market during the coming summer. Each of them comes well recommended, and is designed to fill the yearning void of a long-felt want. Of course the good old parties will continue in the field long enough at least to welcome the new comers and invite them to come out of the wet and be taken in. We shall then have to help in the celebration of this Fourth of July Republicans, Democrats, Populists, Gold Democrats, Socialists, Laborers, Woman Suffragists, Prohibitionists, Mortonites, Pingreeites and Haleites—and the next day it will not snow, for it is going to be a fever hot time all over the United States, Alaska and the Philippines.

### WITH ENTIRE FRANKNESS.

By HENRY JAMES.

Dr. Selfridge of Oakland has been convicted of cruelty to animals, and deserves to get a severe sentence. I like a good horse and have no respect for the man who drives one to death or incapacity.

To offset the case of Selfridge, White Hat McCarty has been acquitted of a similar charge. The verdict is enough to make a horse cry. Hereafter any man who does not want to feed his stock can inclose them in a pasture bounded by a succulent fence and if the diet of splinters fail to stick to their ribs the fault will plainly be with them and not the owner.

The Appeal of Marysville does not think a young woman who accepts an engagement ring and then bounces the young man should retain the bauble. I do not accept this view. No man wants to present to his new girl a second-hand ring, and with the jewel in his possession he would be constantly reminded of a broken heart, which otherwise he might forget.

In its comments upon current events the Bulletin has not learned to understand the beauty and utility of truth. It could no more be fair than a full-blooded African could be white. I do not understand why this city should not have at least one passably good evening paper. The Post is the best, and if it were to eliminate its foolish "contests" might be forgiven. The other sheet is not worth mentioning and I refrain.

For the credit of the city and of California, we are proud of their soldiers now on duty in the Philippines, relatives of the members of the elite, to cease their meetings and their idle clamor for the boys to be brought home. All this noise is worse than ineffective; it is foolish and tiresome and a reflection upon the very Californians in whose behalf it is supposed to be made.

Hon. J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska is the editor of a paper which he calls The Conservative. That it is an able publication, that it speaks the sincere sentiments of the proprietor, that it is clean and manly, all goes without saying. It is my privilege to differ from Mr. Morton as to almost everything he advocates, not as to the manner of the advocacy. The name "Conservative" jars on the ear of the younger generation. This is no time for conservatism, but the contrary. We can be conservative and so can a sheep, driven to the slaughter, but there is nothing in it for the sheep.

A Chicago minister has given his hearers a shock by telling the truth about our social system. I read his remarks and was gratified to find them exactly similar in spirit to remarks which appeared in this column a week ago. He thinks that present conditions are thoroughly bad and so they are. He does not, however, propose a remedy. At present the gentleman occupies a chair at the University of Chicago. If he can name a remedy I move that he be given two chairs.

Professor Morse of Massachusetts is discredited with having said recently: "It has taken our race a million years to climb up from the beast to the man; it takes just fifteen minutes for a man to go back to the beast again." The professor must be proud of the race to which he is a shining ornament. I am glad to be able to think that he is mistaken, although the speed with which he would go back to beasthood is something to be estimated only from his own remarks. If what he says of the rest of us is true I would bet on his making the sprint in seven minutes and a half.

There is some talk of arming the natives of the Philippines and training them to fight against their own liberty. This would be a dangerous experiment. No sooner would the natives learn how to fight than they would select their own targets. These would be American soldiers. It seems to me our boys are being killed fast enough without starting a kindergarten in the art of war for the purpose, or rather, with the inevitable effect, of increasing the mortality.

It is with great interest I have read "McTeague." While the book is not by any means the great American novel, as an enthusiastic critic has pronounced it, it is rich in promise. Frank Norris of this city is the author. I predict that he has just started upon a career that will bring to him honor and fame. A criticism of the book would be out of place in this column, and anyhow I have not time to do the subject justice. Enough to say that it is a character study "McTeague" is great. The only question arising is as to whether the characters so minutely portrayed are worth the trouble. After carefully reading the book I am convinced that they are worth it. There are touches of tragedy, too, suggesting a Dickens, that grand old writer, deemed by the new school out of date, but far more valuable to the world of literature than all the Conan Doyles, the Anthony Hopes and the Hall Caines who could be fenced in a forty-acre lot, where, by the way, I would be glad to fence them. The distinct San Francisco flavor of "McTeague" gives it an added interest here, while in no measure detracting from its interest to readers elsewhere.

William Scott Lee, who wants to hang the Mayor of Denver, could have done that a few years ago without encountering hostile criticism. He was himself Mayor of that city then. The Gridley Herald is so opposed to lynching that I begin to suspect the editor of fearing that somebody with a rope has designs on him.

Concerning the love letters exchanged between Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning much has been said, but I desire to add a mite. When a man and woman enamored of each other may say "is nobody's business, and the son who would for a price give publicity to their messages would sell his parents' skeletons to a bone mill. The publisher who offered the price disgraced his calling, insulted his readers and the memory of two great writers of verse, who, in their relation apart from literature, were ordinary people, while the critics who defend the son in the hawking of his wares are a set of asses.

Among the Americans who make ado over their desire that the Philippines be

Dull witted as a burro, he essays the facetious with pitiful result. He cannot speak, cannot write, cannot be civil. Undeserved fortune found in him the raw material for the making of a Governor and got in its deadly work. I shall never forget the spectacle Gage made of himself after he had received the nomination. I was sorry for him then, and am still sorry enough to pass the incident over. He showed at that moment what there was in him and a cold wave swept the convention hall. A Governor who cannot rise above petty spite, who cannot on occasions be broad, who forgets that he is in a place where politeness is prescribed, unworthy the honor Gage has received. The State is sick of him already and he has barely begun to exhibit his lack of qualification.

### AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

L. D. Smith, a Stockton land-owner, is at the Grand. J. Daniel and wife of New York are guests at the Palace. Mrs. G. B. Herbert of New York is a guest at the California. W. J. Davis, a land owner of Kings City, is at the Russ with his family. A. J. Woods, a wealthy resident of Berkeley, Mrs. A. S. Rosenthal of New York are registered at the Palace.

W. O. White, business manager of the Utah Republic-Press, is making the Grand his headquarters. Fred Swanton came up from Santa Cruz yesterday and will be at the Grand for a few days. S. B. Hicks, a hardware merchant of Seattle, is at the Occidental, accompanied by his wife.

Dr. and Mrs. I. M. Lovitt of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, have engaged apartments at the California. S. Englander, a United States naval officer located at Mare Island, is at the Lick for a brief stay. W. A. Veith, a Fresno fruit-grower, and W. J. Hughes, an Oakland merchant, are registered at the Grand.

Charles E. Elliott, the mining secretary, and J. H. Brown, who has been visiting in California, are at the California. F. L. Gray, proprietor of the Golden Eagle of Sacramento, is at the California, accompanied by his wife. M. M. Gragg of Monterey and William D. O'Brien, a merchant of Jacksonville, Or., are late arrivals at the Lick.

A. C. Tuxbury, a prominent resident of Buffalo, N. Y., has been visiting at the Grand with his wife and daughter. Dr. W. J. Conan and wife of Superior, Wis., and W. S. Chenoweth, a capitalist of Davenport, Iowa, are among the arrivals at the Occidental.

Rev. W. J. Drummond, a missionary of Buena Vista, who has been visiting in the East, arrived at the Occidental last night and will return to the Orient on the next steamer. John Francis, general passenger agent of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, is registered at the Occidental from Omaha. He is making his annual trip over the territory under his supervision. He has been in Los Angeles and will go to Portland in a few days.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WITNESS FEES—A Mother, City. If you are regularly subpoenaed to appear in a court of justice as a witness you are bound to obey; if not, you are liable to be punished. In criminal cases witness fees are paid in civil but not in criminal cases. FLOWERS—J. C. A., Sunol Glen, Cal. For the sale of "wild flowers, ferns and garden flowers" you should communicate with the publisher of the Occidental, who is a dealer in the classified department of the directory under the head of florists.

IN NEW ZEALAND—A. B. C., City. This department has not the space to answer the queries asked regarding population, wages to mechanics and industries in Auckland, Wellington and other places in New Zealand. If the correspondent will go to the Free Public Library, on the corner of Second and West Virginia, and ask for the New Zealand Official Year Book 918, 137-6, he will there find in detail all the information he desires.

THE BEACHCOMBERS—H. G. B., San Rafael, Cal. The following was the lineup of the Alitos who played with the Beachcombers at Santa Cruz on March 12, 1899: Shortstop, second base, Brockhoff, shortstop; Ferguson, left field; Whalen, pitcher; D. Bodie, third base; Moran, catcher; first base, Brockhoff; C. Brockhoff, right field; F. Pace, first base. The professionals were: Brockhoff, Whalen, F. Pace and Ferguson.

RAILROAD DAMAGES—J. B. R., City. The maximum that can be allowed for damages in railroad cases where death was a result is fixed by law at \$500 in Colorado; Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming; at \$700 in New Hampshire; at \$10,000 in the District of Columbia, Indiana, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, and California; and West Virginia, and at \$20,000 in Montana. In the other States and Territories there is no limit as to damages.

UNITED STATES MARINES—W. J. W., Oakland, Cal. In the United States the Marine Corps was established by an act of Congress November 10, 1775, and on the reconstruction of the navy in 1783 it was made liable at any time to do duty in the forts and garrisons of the United States, on the sea coast, or any other duty on shore, as the President might direct. In addition to fort, garrison and navy duty, marines are provided for all naval vessels in commission according to their rating. A first class vessel will carry a lieutenant, three sergeants, four corporals, two musicians and forty privates. A fourth class vessel will carry one sergeant, two musicians and ten privates. In the navy marines are considered as police, and are subject to the rules of the navy, except when the President orders them on duty with the army.

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