

SAN FRANCISCO CALL

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor
EDITORIAL ROOMS AND BUSINESS OFFICE, CALL BUILDING
Corner Third and Market Streets, San Francisco.
UPTOWN OFFICE, 1651 FILLMORE ST.
Phone West 956
OAKLAND OFFICE, 1016 BROADWAY
Phone Oakland 1083
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A DEVELOPING EMPIRE.

The cutting up of the large land holdings in the Sacramento Valley into small farms simultaneously with the completion of great systems of irrigation has brought on an era of development in the northern part of the State, the importance of which is scarcely realized as yet outside the immediate vicinity of the undertakings.

The Sacramento Valley is the last important section of California to be thrown open to the homeward farmer, and is the richest. The very richness of the country, indeed, has retarded its best development. Holders of large tracts have found it profitable to cultivate the land for wheat long after wheat-growing elsewhere in California on the 20,000-acre farm basis had become a decidedly losing investment.

But within two years plans for cutting up such tracts into small farms for actual settlers have been perfected. Two great irrigation systems have been completed, that of the Central canal, under which 200,000 acres will be irrigated, and that of the Butte County canal, which will bring water to 50,000 additional acres.

Other plans, which have not yet been worked out, will bring under irrigation fully 200,000 acres more. The land thus being developed is the richest out of doors; seldom have better opportunities been offered settlers and capital than are here presented.

And settlers and capital have not been slow to respond. At St. Johns, for example, a beet sugar factory is being rushed to completion to handle the product of 5000 acres of beets already in the ground. By the time the beets are ready for the factory the factory will be ready for the beets.

ENGLAND FOLLOWING SUIT.

The press of Great Britain has never lost opportunity to picture the horrors of the "American graft system" and to hold before the world our political wrongdoings as an example of the utter hollowness of the American political system and the unsoundness of our public institutions.

Bishop Potter explains that the Ceylon fisheries, worth millions of pounds, were turned over to a trust that has the exclusive right to trade there, and, of course, controls the price of pearls the world over. The Bishop declares that the concession was obtained by as barefaced tricky manipulation of the vulgar "pull" as ever disgraced a Congressional lobby.

England is nothing if not entirely honest—according to our British contemporaries. The labor situation in South Africa, the distribution of mining privileges in the Transvaal and the scandals in the commissary departments of the navy were, as Bishop Potter says, cleansed in private and no dirty linen was flaunted in public. The inference is that America makes public expose of her offenders against the cause of the people and Great Britain does not.

This is an age of exposed graft because we have

better methods of exposing it than we did in the days when Morgan and his men waxed rich on the cargoes of looted merchantmen with the partial consent of their Government. The grafter has a deal to work upon in the United States, but we root him out and pillory him as soon as he is located. It is a species of "unavoidable notoriety," to be sure, but is an effective system, and England would do well to follow our example and stop scolding.

TO STRENGTHEN FIRE INSURANCE.

As a result of the inability of some of the fire insurance companies, and the disinclination of others, to pay their just losses in this city the indications are that eventually fire insurance will be put on a safer, saner basis than heretofore. The whole world, with the San Francisco situation before it, is now investigating the institution of fire insurance. This is true not only of individuals and corporations, but of States and nations.

Since the fire evidences of the weakness of the whole system of insurance are continually being brought to the fore. The action of the European reinsurance companies, for example, in notifying the ordinary insurance companies that no fire losses due "directly or indirectly" to earthquake are to be paid shows that the reinsurance practiced by ordinary insurance companies to protect themselves in time of great loss comes to nothing.

The weakness of reinsurance is but one of the many developed. The fact that a similar fire in any one of the large cities of the world would as a general thing have wiped out all of the surplus, all of the fire reserve and half of the capital stock of all the companies affected further emphasizes the weakness of the system. The world is going to have fire insurance; fire insurance has become a commercial necessity. But a business world will insist that the institution be placed on a sane business basis and not continue so undependable that a single fire can bring into question the value of policies held in every important city of the globe.

LET THEM SEE FOR THEMSELVES.

More than one hundred New York school teachers are on their way across the continent in a special train to visit San Francisco and see it partly in ruins. Many more special trains with tourists are reported as ready to follow and we may soon witness a great influx of sightseers that will add largely to our summer transient population.

It is well that these tourists are coming. They will carry back with them intelligent summaries of our condition and be able to correct many misleading stories such as have been flooding the East. They will also be able to make note of the progress of the city since the fire and listen to the true story of its wonderful recuperation. In after years the visitors will be in a position to make comparison between the Old and New San Francisco and gain from this comparison an object lesson in the spirit of the American people.

The California Promotion Committee can do good work by taking the tourists in hand and so educating them that each and every one of them will become an agency for the proper advertising of the State. Too much has been published in irresponsible prints of the stagnation in San Francisco and the lack of confidence of business men in its future.

These stories are malicious and entirely untrue, but they find their way into the newspapers nevertheless. Let the tourists come and let us lay bare the situation in its every detail to them. They will not be slow in finding out how cruelly the city has been mangled.

The meat inspection bill, as agreed upon by the conferees of both houses, does not require the date of the preparation of the meat to be put on the labels. To the uninitiated this would seem an unfortunate omission. Consumers are certainly entitled to know the age of the meat they are using and the public health demands it.

An Oroville young man is provided for in his father's will if he mends his ways, which have been somewhat prodigal. There is a fortune awaiting most any energetic young man who will mend his ways and attend strictly to business.

Paris has discovered in John D. Rockefeller a living, breathing example of the inefficacy of hair restoratives. But long since America discovered in him a living, breathing example of the inefficacy of anti-trust laws, which is even worse.

A San Francisco woman, having landed her husband in a Nevada prison for bigamy, attempted to bribe the Reno District Attorney to let him out again. Evidently the lady wishes to keep him company.

The proposed Chinatown block would be a distinctive feature of the city. Improvements of this character should not be held back by racial prejudice.

"Coley" Carnegie is to become the next Laird of Skibo. The estate will thus continue to be held by steel.

HE CAN'T ESCAPE THE SHADOW.



PITTSBURG DISPATCH.

THE SMART SET.

The studio reception given by Charles R. Dutton in Berkeley last Saturday night for Miss Enid Williams was just what everybody knew it would be, a thoroughly delightful affair. Informality was the keynote that placed every one at ease immediately, and the ceaseless murmur of merry voices bespoke a real enjoyment.

The studio might have been called the house of the thousand candles, for the music-room downstairs and the cozy living-room upstairs were brilliantly lighted with numerous waxen tapers—a vastly becoming light to the maids and matrons, all of whom were richly gowned.

The balm moonlight night lured the guests into the yard, where innumerable red lanterns gave both light and color, while the coffee was brewed over a glowing camp fire. Among the guests were a great many distinguished people. Miss Williams, the guest of honor, who just returned from Europe, is not only musically accomplished, but a young woman of rare personal charm.

Two of Oakland's prominent families will soon be united by the marriage of Miss Alice Dunn and James J. McElroy. Miss Dunn is a sister of Dr. James P. H. Dunn, whose wedding with Miss Kate Chabot a few years ago was one of the notable events of suburban society, and Mr. McElroy is the brother of City Attorney John E. McElroy.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. McNear of Oakland entertained at dinner and the Piedmont Park concert last Wednesday. Their guests included the Edward Lacey Braytons, the Willard Waymans and Mrs. Clinton Walker.

Paul F. Struckman, a well-known business man of Oakland, and Miss F. Irene Billings, a member of the Oakland School Department, were married yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock at Trinity Episcopal Church, the Rev. Clifton Mason officiating. George Bradley was best man and Miss Caroline Bradley of San Jose attended the bride. The groom was formerly connected with the newspaper business in Oakland, and later with the National Cash Register Company.

Miss Evans was a teacher in the Tompkins School. Mr. and Mrs. Struckman departed last evening on a northern trip, returning to Oakland in three or four weeks.

Hon. Richard Burke of Tipperary, Ireland, with his son, William P. Burke, is summing at Laurelwood, Santa Clara County. The travelers arrived a few weeks ago to look after property interests in the northern city. The Roy Guppys (Margaret Shearer), who a few months ago made their home in Omaha, are very happy over the arrival of a small Master Guppy.

Miss Lella Evans of Oakland left last evening for Portland, Ore., where she will be married tomorrow to George R. Guppy. Mr. Guppy has always lived in Oakland, but has recently engaged in business in the northern city. The Roy Guppys (Margaret Shearer), who a few months ago made their home in Omaha, are very happy over the arrival of a small Master Guppy.

Miss Susie Martin has returned from a three months' visit near Silver City, N. Mex., where, on a large ranch, a congenial house party was gathered. In the assemblage of eighteen guests were several Princeton graduates, all well entertained with a variety of outdoor sports and pastimes.

Mrs. Helen Shearer and Miss Elizabeth Shearer of Oakland left yesterday for several weeks at Pacific Grove.

Captain Longan, who has been identified with the work at Hamilton School, has left for the East.

The C. E. Merwins of Oakland have gone to Camp Meeker, where they have a country home, and will spend the summer there.

PEOPLE AND THINGS.

By Louise Veiller.

For more than forty years Madame Lemaitre, a peasant woman of the little town of Yvetot, in Normandy, went round enjoying poor health. She hugged the delusion that she was a dying woman. She declared that a healthy, lively lizard was lodged within her stomach and having a royal good time.

Madame Lemaitre entertained her neighbors with tales of her varying symptoms and consulted many physicians. The good doctors all laughed at her and said the lizard was not in your stomach, madam, but in your mind. Finally Madame Lemaitre went to Paris to consult the great specialist, Dr. Richelot of the Cochin Hospital. Dr. Richelot is more than a specialist; he is a great wit. "Madame," he solemnly said to the woman with a lizard in her stomach, "after a thorough examination I am satisfied that in an operation I see the only possible hope for you. There are no other means by which the lizard must be removed. While it is a very difficult operation, it is not a dangerous one, and I can safely promise you complete restoration to health."

Madame Lemaitre consented. Dr. Richelot went out and bought the fattest, healthiest, biggest lizard to be found in all Paris. The peasant woman was placed under the influence of ether. With his little scalpel the witty doctor made a six-inch slit through the skin of Madame Lemaitre's left side, which he immediately sewed up and covered with antiseptic plaster. The lizard was placed in a wire cage and put on a table alongside the patient's bed. It was the first thing her eyes lighted upon as she regained consciousness. "Mon Dieu!" she cried, "what an enormous one! At last I am cured."

Madame Lemaitre is restored to health, just as Dr. Richelot said she would be. And now, instead of entertaining herself and boring her neighbors with a recital of her ailments, she amuses both herself and them with the antics of the lizard that was once inside her and which is now her pet.

So much for the story of Madame Lemaitre. Would it not be a splendid thing, though, if every woman with a lizard in her stomach could find a Dr. Richelot to consult?

I am not going to draw a parallel between the imaginary sick women and the formerly mad ones. They do not need an operation to restore them to health. A plentiful supply of their favorite prescription—usually some harmless patent stuff—keeps them sufficiently occupied and amply amused. The deluded women are thinking of are the poor things whose "lizard" is a particular "talent" with which, like the foolish Normandy peasant, they want to entertain the whole world. They enjoy the hardships and the privations that attending the pursuit of their "talent" always entails, just as Madame Lemaitre enjoyed her poor health. Only, unfortunately, few of them meet a Dr. Richelot whose wit would show him the way to restore the deluded ones to health and happiness.

There are thousands upon thousands of women who imagine they can sing, that they can act, that they can paint, that they can write. They mistake their aptitudes and their love for good things and good music for great singing, great painting, and great literature, for a power to create the same. They want to be what they admire most. Their great love for the arts blinds them to the fact that their shortcomings, the leaping of their pulses, the great performances of others produce, they imagine is the stirring of their own talent. They cannot separate their aptitudes from their shortcomings. Their admiration for the great and the beautiful excites them so that they lose all power to measure themselves.

The only hope for such enthusiasts is the calm, cold judgment of others. The only remedy is the trained knowledge that will speak and truthfully tell them and show them their shortcomings. The saddest thing for the imaginary talents is that they invariably appeal to their friends for an opinion. Friends possess the necessary courage to speak the truth in such a case. Then again, there are few friends who are competent to give an opinion that is worthy of consideration. And the deluded talented toil on and on, encountering hardships, enduring privations and glutting up the market.

It is the woman striving for artistic honors that can never be here that makes the way so hard for the ones who will ultimately arrive to fame. It is because managers and publishers and artists must wade through so much that is not worth the trouble that they are loath to examine the work of a newcomer. Thus it is that the admirers of genius block the way of genius and hinder most those that they would serve.

Next best to being a genius is to discover a genius. There would seem to me to be a panacea for the deluded talented, a great field for the one who appreciates the work that he cannot do. Let a great hope be placed in the hands of the imaginary talented show them the field. That would be a pleasant way to tell them a truth which, though inflicting present pain, will save them from years of misery.

There is nothing more cruel than this leading of people on to imagine they have a great talent. In fact, it is more than cruel. It is criminal. It is raising great hopes in them after a ward. It is drawing picture of a radiant future that can never be realized. It is the most heartless joke that one human being can perpetrate upon another.

Be kind! Don't foster the illusion of a lizard in the stomach.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

MOSAIC GOLD—Subscriber, City. Mosaic gold is not gold at all. It has no connection with Moscovite or the metal gold. It is an alloy of copper and zinc used in ancient tessellated work.

SANCHO PEDRO—G. City. In the game of sancho pedro the count is: High, low, jack, game, sancho pedro. In a game, G. and H. are playing, and each has three to go. If G. makes high and H. makes low, H. makes low, jack and game, H. according to the count, wins.

NARCISSUS—M. B. City. The legend in connection with the flower called narcissus is that Narcissus saw his image in a fountain and fell in love with it. He vainly attempted to kiss the shadow, but, not being able to do so, killed himself. His blood was changed into the narcissus flower.

TO PRESERVE FIGS—Subscriber, Corralitos, Cal. The following is a method of preserving figs: "Take green figs, wash, peel, and soak two hours in lemon juice and water, half and half, or vinegar and water. Make a syrup of a pint of sugar and half a cup of water to each pound of fruit, boil and skim. Into it drop the drained figs and let them stand for an hour. Skim them out and if they are tender, thick boil until it thickens. The last thing, add the juice of one lemon to every three pounds of fruit and turn over a country home, which have been kept hot, into jars; seal at once."

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