

THE PROGRESS.

WHERE THE FAULT LIES.

The moral element of the Nation, State parish or city is generally the class which first lifts its voice against the administration of our public affairs, by officials either incompetent, or worse, wilfully dishonest. The members of this class are the most prominent in demanding that men of their character should rule the government and be in positions of trust, and are not tardy about lamenting the fact that it is not so, and honestly wonder why it is that vice and immorality have such sway in their community that they can always place their own adherents to the front and in control of the public weal.

Those who are seriously and sincerely pondering over these phenomena need do so no more. The solution of the problem can be found in a communication which appeared in the preceding issue of THE PROGRESS, entitled "vote as you pray." If the better element of our community would vote as they pray and teach, there would be a great change in the administration of our governmental affairs, but that they do not do and thus will the men of evil or lax morals ever hold positions of honor and trust. Let us take our own city, Shreveport, and note how some of our people pray, teach and vote. First on the scene are our ministers. On the Sabbath day they preach Christ, who is the personification of all that is moral, truthful and good, and entreat their flock with great earnestness and deep pathos to follow in His footsteps and emulate His example; and yet, on election days, these same earnest advocates of the Holy One's cause will go to the polls and cast their ballots for men who honor not the blessed Savior nor the holy day of the Lord, nor none of his teachings. This too, when the same candidates who receive their votes are opposed by men who are striving to be humble followers of the Master. Next we will introduce active members of the church, men who pray in public, lead class and prayer meetings, and are put forward by their pastors, as those who are the props and stays of Christian churches. These men are known and recognized for their deep piety; they are made prominent by their earnest devotion to God's cause, and are looked up to by the other members of the church and the outer world as men who live as they talk. But on what side are they when they come to choose the officials of the government? Many will go to the polls and cast their votes for candidates who mock and make sport of their religion; men who will say publicly they do not believe that Christ is the son of God, and who spend the holy Sabbath in any way except that of reverence.

Again, we introduce the moral man. He devotes, as he should, many precious moments in teaching his children the difference between vice and good morals, citing them examples of the end of great men who lived pure and wholesome lives, and those who did not; dwelling with intense earnestness upon the contrast and ending with the fond hope that they would choose the nobler example and intimate them. But as election day draws nigh these same children who have been so impressed with their father's earnest talk, are surprised beyond measure to hear him declare with considerable warmth, that he intends to support a man who is as directly opposite to the character which he had pointed out to his children as the one they should follow, as the North is from the South, while his opponent is a fit example of the

one which the parent had eulogized so.

One more example. We now bring forward the Christian mother. She has several children whom she is striving to raise in the way they should go. She is trying to make them "remember their Creator in the days of their youth." She spends many moments in earnest talk with them on these great questions of life which she could devote to causes of more pleasure to herself; and yet, when the day of choosing men for office arrives, and she has heard her husband speak enthusiastically of his suspension to deeds for an ungodly man, it never occurs to this good woman to say to the husband, "John, don't do that; don't cast your influence for that ungodly man; I have been praying, thinking and talking to our children for years, trying to make them honor God, and men who are God-fearing and holy, and if their father votes for a man who is opposed to all this, it will assist in undoing all that I have done. The children have confidence in, and respect for you, John, and you must not by your example in this, teach them that the doctrine which I have taught is a fallacy fitted only for the nursery.

These examples are derelictions which we have noted in our own city. Men and women of piety and moral character have rendered their teachings unavailing, and preachers their doctrine useless, because they do not vote as they preach and pray. How can men and women expect to have influence for good in any cause, when in that which is the greatest of all earthly responsibilities, the administration of public affairs, they are so derelict, and by their example set unrighteous and unholy men above their brethren who are true to the faith? This is where the fault lies and the evil will continue until men and women learn to vote as they pray.

PRESS ECHOES.

**CROOKS AT WORK**—There are a few desperate, unprincipled scoundrels in the town who have of late been guilty of the nastiest of crooked work. The public is kept in a constant state of anxiety by their boldness in perpetrating one job after another, while they must know that the keenest watch is kept and untiring vigilance is exercised by the police officers. So menacing has the situation become that several citizens have volunteered for the past few nights to assist the police officers in patrolling the city. Yet with all of this care the crooks continue to get in their "work" almost nightly. It seems impossible to secure positive proof against any of the gang, though they display a boldness of desperation in the infamous business.—Monroe Times.

**MOMENTS OF JUBILATION.**—The showers falleth and the rice planter contineth happy. The small boy rolleth up his pantaloons while his heart panteth after the sportive crayfish. The sugar planter sitteth back in the shade and figureth out the profits on his growing crop, and the merchant laugheth in his sleeves on account of the bright prospects of filling his iron safe with the shining dollars. The editor's soul is filled with rapture, when he thinketh on the days when peas and punkins will be plentiful in the land, and the subscriber payeth his subscription.—Vermillion Star.

Representative Lomax has introduced a bill in the House to prohibit betting on elections, and to provide penalties therefor. Mr. Lomax is wasting his time and his bill will have no other effect than to cumber the Statute Book. It would become a dead letter, or rather never be put in operation, and why should it? If people are minded to wager on an election there can certainly be no harm in it, and moreover, the people of Louisiana don't care for this privilege to be taken from them. The House should promptly reject the bill.—Natchitoches Review.

Now, now, friend, don't be too hard

on the law and order class. The gamblers and saloon men have more privileges now than any other class, and assuredly other people should have some recognition at least. If the law will not be enforced it is a reflection on our officers which THE PROGRESS dislikes to have published. Besides, let the outside world think we believe in morality whether we practice it or not. We therefore differ from the Review and hope the bill will be made a law.

**WATERWORKS.**—The city council will, at its next meeting, consider the question of establishing waterworks. This is a very important step, and should meet with the hearty approval of our citizens. The reduction in insurance, to say nothing of the many conveniences that would arise therefrom, justify the investment. Let us have the waterworks by all means.—De Soto Democrat.

Waterworks are very useful, but we would suggest to our Mansfield friends to watch their interests well and see to it that they are not imposed on like we of Shreveport are swindled by the company here.

A calf was born about two months ago on the place of Mr. Sonnier, near Patoutville, with only two legs—hind ones. It is said that the little animal is stout and healthy and moves about in an erect attitude. There will be a bazar in Patoutville shortly, where this freak of nature will be exhibited to the public.—N. I. Democrat.

On Wednesday last, the whistle of the Ferry boat got out of order and blew for ten or fifteen minutes. The long whistle, being the sign of distress, threw the town people in a state of great excitement. Some of our corpulent citizens who have never been known to walk faster than at the rate of a quarter of a mile an hour were seen getting over that much ground in a minute. A crevasse in front was the cry, and while almost everyone ran for the levee, some few took to the woods. Well, the long whistle did one good thing: it made some of our fat fellows take a little very healthful exercise.—Iberville South.

Mr. S. D. McCardell, one of the most prominent planters of the Ninth ward, was in town during the week. He informs us that the crops in his section are looking very well, but that all planters are in great fear of the raging Mississippi.—Iberville South.

**NOT VERY HARMONIOUS.**—Hon. Thos. Richardson, president of the school board of Vernon parish, was seriously stabbed at Leesville on the 4th, during a meeting of the board. F. H. Addison was arrested charged with the deed.—Sabine Bauder.

**A GAME CHICKEN.**—Mr. McDermott, of Columbus, Ind., has a game cock which is "cock of the walk" and lord of the barnyard. For a long time the honors of the yard have been divided between him and an Alderney bull. Recently the bull took exceptions to the forwardness of the cock, and attacked him. But in a very few minutes the bull was minus an eye, and retreated in great disorder. About one year ago this same cock, in one day killed seven geese, which had attacked him in a gang, eleven turkeys and three roosters singly. When the owner beheld the havoc he threw the cock into a pen with an old sow condemned of chicken eating. But within ten seconds he had knocked both her eyes out and was on the pen crowing lustily.—Vermillion Star.

The Birdie's Farewell.

"Oh, birdie, birdie, will you, pet? Diamond stones and amber and Jet, I'll string in a necklace fair and fine, To please this pretty bird of mine."

"Oh, thanks for diamonds, and thanks for Jet, But here is something daintier yet. A feather necklace round and round, That I would not sell for a thousand pound."

"Oh, birdie, birdie, won't you, pet? I'll buy you a dish of silver fret: A golden cup and an ivory seat, And carpets soft beneath your feet."

"Can running water be drunk from gold? Can a silver dish the forest hold? A rookling twig is the finest chair, And the softest path lie through the air, Farewell, farewell to my lady fair!"

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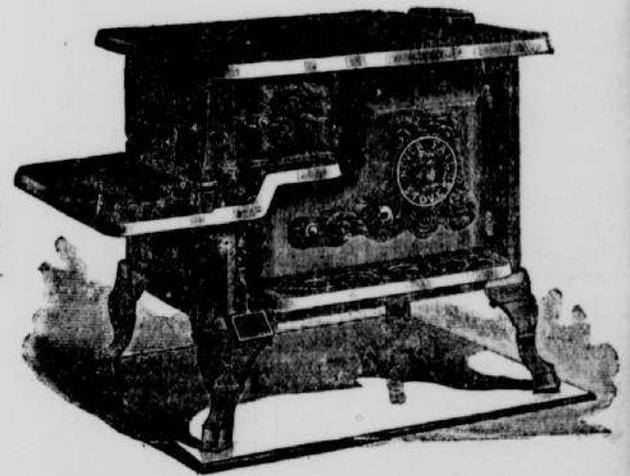
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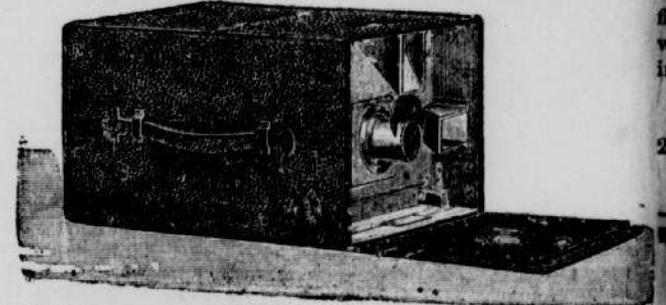
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