SOCIAL REFORM.

Expression of Feeling on the Question.

ENTHUSIASTIC ADDRESSES.

Agency of Moral Forces for Practical Purposes.

A NEW SOCIETY ORGANIZED.

Some Friction Arises Over Differences of Belief Upon Merits of Various Factors for Good.

Metropolitan Temple was crowded last night with a mixed audience of men and women, who had come together for the purpose of participating in the formation of the "agency of moral forces for practical purposes."

George T. Gaden called the meeting to order, and in so doing took occasion to make a forcible plea for broadness of view in religious, political and ethical questions. He also suggested many political and popular reforms, to attempt to bring about which, he said, the new society was called together. The ground covered by his address included woman's rights, taxation, combination of capital, condition of the poor and unemployed, all of which called for reform. Woman had done much already in this direction, and she was responsible for the meeting.

"To-night I want to stand here and wave a banner with one word inscribed thereon," said he; "a word that can conquer the evils of society and religion—the word 'Woman'—for it is the perpetual June fragrance wherever it goes to sweeten the December blasts of sorrow that now fill our land, as well as the influence they have over the so-called 'lords of creation.'"

Rev. Henry Frank of Boston was introduced, and he spoke to the point at once, making the audience acquainted with the purposes of the meeting and of the movement which he said has swept throughout the country. The movement is one of the most gigantic of social reforms ever seen in the world, so he declared.

"We propose," he said, "to bring together the great agencies of education, reformation and agitation so as to bring about the reform we seek. Because the people are not yet properly acquainted with our movement their enthusiasm is lost. We say to all alike, come into the folds of this movement. We know no sex, no creed, no complexion—nothing that shall separate us from the beating hearts of human wants. We ask every church, every organization formed in the interest of human amelioration to join us. I would ask you first of all what relation will this great movement bear to the churches—simply one of union, of entreaty for their help.

"We say to the church, 'Come to us; we need you; you can help us. Go on with your glorious worship; it will do good; but come with us as we go with hearts of love, that the masses may be restored with your co-operation.'

"The churches must not shut their ears to the impetuous cries of human suffering. It is only the mutual ignorance which prevails which keeps the two apart. The message I have for you to-night is, you are wanted to co-operate with the churches. We all know, somehow, that the awful murmurings of a revolution are in the air. But we are instituting a movement that peace and fraternity may prevail and not bloodshed upon the face of the earth.

"They that enjoy the wealth of the world and don't know how to use it, they need a little of this education. We go farther, that we shall have established in every city a civic federation—to purify the municipality and to purify politics. It is our opinion nothing can be accomplished in the great world of reform without educating first the great centers of population. If you will join clubs for the study of economics and social reform you will be accomplishing this end."

His allusion to the idle workmen who are tramping toward Washington was greeted with applause. He said "Godspeed them," because he believes they are all honest and sincere and their visit to the capital is "to ask the great savants, politicians and legislators of America for relief in their distress." At the conclusion of his speech he was cheered and applauded vociferously.

Rev. Leslie Sprague of the Second Unitarian Church in this city was the next speaker. He launched out into a fearless defense of the churches, asserting that when the time came for unemployed to ask for relief the churches gave most willingly.

"I tell you the time has gone by when a tirade against the churches will be tolerated. The time has gone by for the churches to brag, or for a tirade against Christianity. For the man who says the world is all wrong and claims to have found a panacea I have no use. I say that is the greatest curse that ever struck the human system, that foolhardiness that thinks something is to come from nothing. It has taken 1900 years to give us the society we enjoy to-day, and do you presume to say you can do better in a day? I have no panacea to offer for all the evils that afflict society. You must not be impatient. You may hiss me if you want to. I'm not afraid of that. The world will find its destiny.

"We are not here to bring in any new principle, but to bring together all classes of men in the humble, earnest search for truth. The time is gone when you can say 'heaven's got to come through my little gateway.' The idea is to get together people of all churches and no church at all, to act with one accord, to think with one heart and to do one thing at a time."

Rev. Miss Florence Kelloch of the Universalist Church, Pasadena, was greeted with applause. "It seems to me this is a coming together of earnest men and women," said she, "as rational, thoughtful, patriotic and humanity-loving men and women, to emphasize those bonds which shall hold State to State, nation to nation."

The trouble with the money market is the want of confidence; and he created applause by declaring that the trouble with the moral market is want of confidence between man and man. It was the churches of Pasadena that gave food and assistance to the hungry men who, only a few days ago, passed through her town. "Let us say," she concluded, "that we shall fight this thing together, and then we shall win."

Rabbi Nieto said although he is called a socialist there are things with which he cannot agree which are too ideal. His idea of the movement is that the two extremes be educated, to work on both sides. He asked why should there be dives, why should men be so low as to go into such places and his answer was loud applause. Then it was obvious, he held, that this education is needed to create a horror of the lower life. They must be educated and the first duty of the reform is to educate them so that they shall be morally strong. When he said with emphasis that there are thousands of lazy, slothful, ignorant immoral men among the unemployed a screech of hisses rent the air, and it was kept up, growing stronger and stronger till it ended in a catcall. But his sentence was not finished, and he appeased the house by stating that a majority is composed of good, honest industrious, unemployed men who could not get work.

Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson said she was about to speak for humanity, for the faith of to-day, for that which makes for education and next for morality. While private morality is low public morals are not good and that keeps down the individual.

"The immense advantage of this movement is that it brings together all classes of people. What is needed most is a clear idea on what is wanted first. Education is wanted, but politics come first. There is an enormous instruction in the marching of unemployed men across the continent and their good conduct."

John M. Reynolds came to the front when Mrs. Stetson retired and he declared emphatically that this is a practical movement, with a practical purpose. Then he presented resolutions, which were applauded loudly and adopted by a unanimous vote:

Resolved, By the San Francisco Union of Moral Forces for Practical Progress that we call upon the General Government to do what we, as citizens and humanitarians, would do if it was in our power, namely, employ the unemployed.

Resolved further, That we request our Senators and Representatives at Washington to secure the appropriation of money for public work to be expended in all the States of the Union, providing that each State shall receive an amount proportionate to its population; providing each State receiving such fund shall be required to expend the same in useful public improvements under the auditing supervision of a United States officer.

Resolved further, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to each Senator and Representative of California at Washington and to the President of the United States.

Rev. Mr. Wyckoff of the Congregational church defended Christianity and was applauded, but he had no sooner sat down than L. H. Irvine arose and asserted that if the people were to wait for the churches to do anything for them they would have to wait for the chains to rot around their necks.

"If we ever get through with reforming the police in this city there will be plenty to do to reform the churches. I have nothing to say against the churches. The reformation you seek must begin with individualism."

The meeting adjourned after papers were distributed for people to sign as members of the new organization.

In Their New Quarters.

The Progress Reform Club opened house in its new hall, 27 Valencia street, last night, with sixty-three members present. THE CALL was heartily indorsed as the most reliable newspaper on the Pacific Coast, and many other sensible things were done for the benefit of the members, the cause of reform and posterity. C. L. Smiley was elected president, James Perry treasurer and J. W. Emiston secretary. There were several speeches and spontaneous bursts of eloquence, also some very good singing and a pleasant time generally. Harmony prevails in the Progress Reform Club.

A MUCH-LIBELED VESSEL.

More Claims Against the Steamer Willamette Valley.

In the United States District Court W. A. Swinnerton filed a libel against the already heavily involved steamer Willamette Valley. The action was brought on behalf of Swinnerton himself, Katz & Lewis, M. H. de Young, W. J. Slocum & Co., Taylor, Nason & Co., the National Insurance Company, the Contra Costa Laundry Association, Yates & Co., George W. Josselyn & Co., Risdon Iron Works, Taylor, Adams & Pritchard, the San Francisco Bulletin, American Oil Company, San Francisco MORNING CALL, Smith's Cash Store and E. R. Stevens & Co. The total amount sought to be recovered is $2259. A question as to the jurisdiction of the court will be raised, as the vessel is now in the hands of a receiver at Portland, Or.

Society Notes.

The Twenty-one Club will give its fifth reception this evening at National Guard Hall.

The N. S. L. K. 10 will give a party this evening at Lunt's Hall, 1310 Polk street.

Palo Alto Lodge No. 1514, Knights and Ladies of Honor, will give a party this evening at Alcazar Social Hall.

Bickerdyke Camp No. 2, Daughters of Veterans, will give its fourth semi-annual ball this evening at Mozart Hall. There will be an entertainment also and refreshments will be served.

The Verdis will give their fourth party this evening at Union-square Hall.

Harrison's Injunction.

Judge D. J. Murphy has ordered a permanent injunction to issue restraining the Gazette Publishing Company from printing a newspaper under the name of the "Hotel Gazette," on the application of W. P. Harrison, proprietor of the journal bearing the same name. Harrison also sued for $15,000 damages, but the Judge left this question to be settled in another action.

AGED SIX SCORE.

Claudia Herrera's Life and Death.

A MEXICAN WOMAN'S CAREER

She Lived for Many Years in Abject Poverty.

FRIENDS HAVE SUPPORTED HER.

Up to Two Years Ago She Earned Her Own Living by Doing Washing and Housework.

Bowed low under the weight of six score years, Claudia Herrera, a Mexican woman, died last Saturday. She died in a little rookery at 5 Pollard place, on Telegraph Hill, where she has lived during the last years of her life.

No. 5 Pollard place is not prepossessing in appearance. It is small, but is occupied by several families, and so crowded are the inmates that "Old Claudia Herrera" had but two rooms, both of which would make no more than a small room for herself and for the companion who had become attached to her toward the close of her long life. The old woman lived for the last two years on the bounty of her friends. Mrs. de Laveaga paid her rent and often placed more than one silver piece in her withered palm. The neighbors and her companion, a Mexican woman named Petro R. de Recheri, supplied her with the little that she needed to eat, and she led a not unhappy existence until the weight of the years she had lived fell upon her suddenly and without particular warning. Within two hours on last Saturday afternoon she became childish, her eyesight failed, her voice became a whisper and then she died.

As the old woman and her companion were very poor Mrs. Recheri at first hesitated about applying to an undertaker to bury the body, and so it lay in bed until yesterday morning. Then it was taken to an undertaker and from there it will be buried.

As it lies upon a pall awaiting the funeral services to-day the body of the old woman plainly shows the marks of her great age. Her hair, once black as the hair of all Spaniards, is white as snow and strangely enough is thick and long. Her eyes are sunken, her lips are thin and drawn tight over the toothless gums, the chin is prominent and the hands are withered until but the bones and sinews are left.

Up to two years ago, "Claudia," as the old woman was known by old and young on the hill, earned a moderate but sufficient pittance by washing and cleaning houses. She was a familiar figure on the streets as she came and went to her work, and her age won the respect of even the street gamins, who refrained from comment upon her appearance. She walked with a slow and halting step, bent nearly to the ground, but she never used a cane.

She could read even at the time of her death, but she never learned to write. "Mothers never allowed their daughters to learn to write in my time," she used to say in her quaint old Spanish, "for they were afraid the girls would write to the young men."

Of her early life the old woman frequently spoke, but never in such a manner as to allow anything definite to be gleaned from her words. From what she did say, those who knew her learned that she was married when she was about 25. A daughter was born to her during this union. In three years her husband died, and in another year she was married again, and not until his wife was 95 did the husband die.

The daughter was the cause of "Claudia's" removal from her home, near Chihuahua in Mexico, to California. The girl married against the wish and the choice of her mother, and so the mother left her and came to this city in about 1849. She always said she would never have anything to do with her daughter, and never made any attempt to communicate with her until eight years ago. Then she relented, and asked her companion, Mrs. Richeri, to write a letter for her. The letter was never written.

"Claudia" was very proud of her age, and frequently spoke of it until a few weeks ago, when an offer was made to have her exhibit herself at the Midwinter Fair. She was very much insulted by the offer.

She was always blessed with the best of health, and for as long as any one can remember she was an inveterate smoker. She selected and bought her own tobacco and rolled her own cigarettes. She indulged in wine and beer with the zest of many a one of one-sixth her age, but she was always temperate.

"Claudia" was a regular attendant at the Spanish Catholic Church on Broadway, and in her last visit to the confessional she expressed the wish to live at least until last Sunday. Why she wished to live until then she never told. She did not expect to die, but some premonition of her death must have suggested the wish, for she voiced it more than once. It may have been her birthday, it may have been the date of her husband's death or her daughter's marriage, or any of the countless anniversaries to which her long life may have given occasion. But on Saturday evening, just a few hours before the day she so earnestly wished to see, the spark of life which had burned so long flickered for the space of a few minutes and went out.

BUSH IS DYING.

The Old California Artist Is Beyond Recovery.

Norton Bush, the well-known artist, who is lying at the Fabiola Hospital, Oakland, suffering from a severe attack of la grippe, is not expected to live another day. He was in a very low condition at a late hour last evening, and all hopes were then given up of his recovery.

He contracted a severe cold while at Chicago recently, which developed into a more severe stage on this return to this city. His vigorous constitution bore him up to a certain degree, but the fierce ravages of the disease proved too strong to battle against and a total collapse followed.

Mr. Bush was at Chicago during the progress of the Columbian Exposition superintending the California section of the art exhibit. His labors in this connection were highly gratifying to those whose works were under his charge, and it was not until quite recently that he completed the work of returning the various paintings to their owners.

He has received many visits from his fellow-artists while confined in the hospital, and every care and attention which could be given was awarded him.

Mr. Bush is attended by Dr. Bush, who is his niece, and by his brother. His strength is rapidly failing. The doctor has said she does not think the sick man can last the night out. The attacks of palpitation of the heart, the malady from which he is suffering, are steadily growing more severe.

Died in a Chair.

Albert Prince Stanyan, a saloon-keeper, returned to his home at 8 Turk street about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He complained of feeling badly and was placed in a chair. While his wife was making something for him to drink he died where he was seated. He had been under the doctor's treatment for some time for heart troubles. The body was removed to the Morgue, where an autopsy will be held. The deceased was a native of New Hampshire and 53 years of age. He was at one time superintendent of the City Cemetery and formerly kept a livery-stable on Geary street. He leaves a widow and a daughter.

Not a Suicide.

A. Durand, a Frenchman who has been employed as a bookkeeper by A. Perrier, 220 Stockton street, was found dead in his room at 509 Bush street yesterday afternoon. He was lying on the floor, and the fact that there was some blood on the carpet gave rise to the rumor that he had committed suicide, but there was no wound, the blood having come from the dead man's mouth. It is thought that death resulted from apoplexy. He was 60 years old and lived alone.

Caught Him in the Act.

John Rielly, a rough-looking fellow, was arrested by Officer Gilroy yesterday on the Sixth-street dumps and charged with robbery at the Southern station. Reilly assaulted John O'Brien, an old man who makes a living by picking up bottles and rags on the dumps, and throwing him down took a purse and 55 cents from him. Gilroy saw the men struggling and went to the ragman's assistance.

Horn Still Alive.

J. C. Horn, the printer who was shot by Alfred H. Nahor at 236 Sutter street during a fight over Nahor's wife, is still in the Receiving Hospital. He was somewhat better to-day, but the physicians still think that he cannot recover. Nahor has employed George H. Colwell as counsel, and it is understood that his defense will be that he shot Horn in self-defense.

STOLEN BY GYPSIES.

A Strange Story That Was Told by a Young Kansas Boy.

Frank Bussie, a lad of 13, now at the residence of Pinkney Stevenson, an aged and highly respected citizen of Todd County, Southern Kentucky, and a relative of Vice-President Stevenson, has had a thrilling career for one so young, says a Clarksville (Tenn.) dispatch to the Philadelphia Item. He was born in Ottawa, Kansas, where his father, who was an engineer, lived. He claims that his father was killed eighteen months ago and at the time of his death was carrying a policy of $8000 on his life. His mother died shortly after his father met his death, having a policy of $400 on her life also. He was the only child and heir and lived with his step-grandmother.

He claims that last September his stepgrandmother collected from the insurance company the $8000 on his father's life and led him to believe that she was going to Ottawa to qualify as his guardian and that he would get the interest on the $8000 until he was 21, when he would be entitled to the whole amount.

The next day after the policy was paid a circus showed at Ottawa, and while he was on the show ground he was persuaded by a gypsy woman to go to her wagon by coaxing him with candy and other delicacies, and when she got him near the wagon she threw him in and covered his mouth so that he could give no alarm and then drove off, the gypsy party coming to Kentucky.

They arrived in Todd County about the middle of January. While encamped near Stevenson's farm young Bussie was sent out to gather wood and steal food for the horses and also the gypsies. He discovered the Stevenson home while rambling in the woods, where he went and related his pitiful story.

Mr. Stevenson says that the boy was almost naked, barefooted and suffering from hunger. It is now generally believed that the boy's stepgrandmother hired the gypsies to steal him in order that she might get the money he was entitled to. The case has been placed in the hands of Judge Brewer Reeves of Elkton, who is now corresponding with Kansas attorneys relative to the matter. Should the lad's story be found true action will be taken at once to recover the stolen fortune and bring the guilty ones to justice.

A Strange Resurrection.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"On the banks of the Castleman River is a sight which is well worth the trouble of going to see," said R. C. Deakins. "A short distance from the river at the foot of the mountain six poplars are growing, the place inclosed being in the shape of a coffin. For about six feet from the ground the six trees have a common trunk, or rather root, as it seems as if the six trees in the inclosed space had all united solidly, and had grown out of the ground, carrying the earth above them up along to the height named. On climbing on top of this common trunk, it is found that these poplars must have been planted around a child's grave. The inclosed space is about four feet long and the green grass is growing in the earth there. At one end is a gravestone with an inscription on it, which, however, is worn by time. A part of it is broken off by the wear and tear of time, although it might be thought that those sturdy poplars would be able to protect this small charge of theirs. It is unknown by whom the grave was made."

I'D BEEN tortured a good deal with my eyes before I went to Berteling, 428 Kearny st. *

Some antiquarians claim the locomotive engine was known in China 200 years ago.

BUY glass of F. N. Woods & Co., 51 First st.*

AT THE THEATERS.

Modjeska in Well-Tried "Mary Stuart."

"Captain Herne, U. S. A.," at Morosco's — At the Stockwell.

Madame Modjeska was warmly received at the Baldwin in the character of "Mary Stuart," but the auditorium was not so full of people as was expected. She played the roll of the unhappy Scottish Queen in the way that we have been familiar with. Generally sweet and sympathetic, with an occasional assertion of queenly dignity that sat on her most becomingly. The principal scene of Schiller's great work is the third one—the meeting of the rival Queens in the park of Fotheringay Castle, where, forgetting royal dignity for the nonce, they berate each other like a couple of ordinary scolding women.

"Mary Stuart" seems not to possess the charm it once did for the public even though a Modjeska undertakes the lead of it. Mr. Otis Skinner, her chief support, as Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, makes a good figure of that treacherous nobleman, from Schiller's standpoint, and attracted the attention of the audience. This gentleman proposes to star next season when the Countess shall have retired to her native Poland. The Sir Edward Mortimer of Mr. Guy Lindsley was a clever piece of work and drew fire frequently from a somewhat otherwise impassive audience.

Hermann Sudermann's "Magon," a new play, is in order for to-night, which we will, no doubt, have to record a crowded attendance. The play was produced in Berlin last winter, and created a sensation there second to none that the German stage has witnessed this century.

"Doris" succeeded in filling the New California last evening. It is a well-considered and well-constructed piece of work, written especially, as may be seen, for Miss Effie Elisler, in the character of Doris Vane, the schoolteacher. The scene where she foils Stephen Brand, the convict, in his attempt on the life of Kenneth Ashleigh, while the latter is in a deep sleep, is a strong one and well brought out by the heroine, who from her action faints in the arms of the aroused man when she has driven the ruffian who menaced his life from the room. Miss Elisler retains all that easy natural manner in her stage action with which we have been familiar in past years. Robert Drouet, the author of the piece, played Kenneth Ashleigh, the squire, for all it was worth, as may be supposed, seeing he created it in the first instance. Frank Weston had a neat part in Brien O'Neal, M.D., the prison doctor, and caught it well. "Doris" ought to prove a draw.

The International Vaudevilles at the Stockwell entered on their last week with the addition of Professor Codert's living pictures, or tableaux vivants, said to be the reigning sensation of New York, London and Paris. They were twelve in number and were fairly well presented. It was expected that an attempt would be made to prevent the exhibition, but it seems that what had been tolerated in leading cities elsewhere was considered a good enough Morgan for San Francisco. The house was well filled.

Morosco's Grand Opera-house drew a large audience to enjoy "Captain Herne, U. S. A.," a military drama that embraces as much Federal as Confederate business. It was well done. The large stage of this theater is calculated for effective display, especially in the military way. Same piece to-night.

At the Tivoli "Ship Ahoy" entered on its last week.

The Orpheum Music Hall is doing a tremendous business with the Crescendos and other novelties.

John C. Pelton, the earnest educator on this coast, is not in the best possible circumstances, and it is proposed to give him a benefit at an early day. Those who wish to aid in the movement are invited to call on C. M. Fisher, editor of the California Educational Journal, office Secretary Board of Education, second floor, new City Hall.

To-Day's Races.

The following are the entries for to-day's races:

First race, half a mile, two-year-olds—Coquette 107, Madrone 115, Mary Foster filly 112, Model 115, Gasser 115, Miss Clay filly 112, Victory 107, Ione 112.

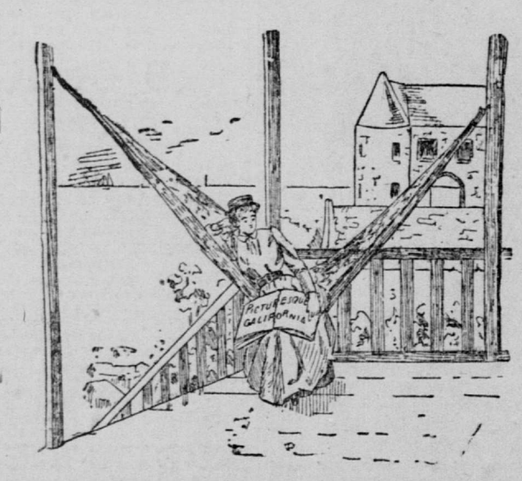
Second race, eleven-sixteenths of a mile, selling, maidens—Chula 84, King Sam 102, Ivy 92, Mendocino 108, Gosling 104, May Day 93, Sidney 100, McGinnis' First 82.

Third race, one mile, selling—Floodmore 100, Melanita 100, Dr. Ross 111, The Lark 83, Hy Dy 106, Artist 94.

Fourth race, about six furlongs, selling—North 106, Nelson 106, Rube Burrows 106, Queen of Scots 90, Trentola 114, El Tirano 80, Border Lassie 92, Melanita 104.

Fifth race, eleven-sixteenths of a mile, selling—Queen of Scots 99, Bobolink 104, Border Lassie 107, Ravine 97, Chemuck 91, Morven 99, Fly 101, De la Guerra 97, Trix 109, Valparaiso 105, Jennie Deane 103, Carmel 108.

WHEN TAKING



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