

THE DAILY HERALD.

VOL. I.

HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1886.

NO. 20

DOING UP A FLY-SCREEN MAN.

The Proprietor Was Very Busy—Conduct Which Was "Grossly Outrageous."

He had a sample fly-screen under his arm, and he turned aside and entered a little shoe shop on Lafayette street east. "I was very busy to-day," said the cobbler, as he looked up.

"Y-e-s, I suppose so, and so are the flies," was the reply. "My friend, have you given any thought to the momentous query: 'Shall I Keep the Flies Out or In This Summer?'"

"I had to get this boot done in half an hour."

"Exactly, and I don't propose to hinder you. I am taken orders for fly-screens. You can peg, peg away, while we talk, talk fly-screens."

"I don't want some."

"That is to say, you propose to sit in this shop all summer and encourage the visits of winged insects. Do you know how much time a man loses in four months in striking at flies?"

"I don't figure on him."

"Of course you don't, but I have. You will lose just two days in every month. That's eight days thrown away, and not a fly killed. Now, then—"

"I don't want some fly screens."

"That is, you think you don't. How many cubic feet of air do you think comes through that door in four months?"

"Maybe six."

"Maybe millions! How much dust do you suppose accompanies that air?"

"I was very busy."

"Exactly, but more than two bushels of dust enter this shop by way of that door, and you inhale at least half of it. How many microbes accompany the dust?"

"Dis shop was under mortgage, you see."

"That's all right, but for ten hours a day you inhale 100 cholera microbes an hour."

"Und maybe I moof avhay to Chicago in June."

"Suppose you do. A fly-screen door is portable property. There are flies and dust and microbes in Chicago as well as Detroit. Do you want to die of cholera?"

"If I die it vhas all right. If I live I haf to work all der time. I vhas a great hand to be alone in my shop."

"Certainly you are, but the question remains: 'Shall flies light on your coat or not?' I will make you a door—"

"I vhas verry busy."

"Don't doubt it, but you owe something to yourself. Two dollars and a half will buy the door complete, and I want to tell you that our—"

"Great Heafens! go avhay! I vhas busy! I don't want some doors! I don't want some fly-screens!"

"You don't. If you don't want a door why did you encourage me? Why did you take a quarter of an hour of my valuable time? Do you suppose I can stop and figure up cubic feet of air and bushels of dust and numbers of microbes to gratify idle curiosity?"

"I like you to go avhay!"

"Well, I'll go. Why didn't you say so at first? What have I done to you that you should want to injure me by robbing me of my time? Your conduct is outrageous, sir—grossly outrageous!"

The shoemaker jumped and locked the door as soon as the man was out. For a moment they glared at each other through the dusty glass, and then the fly-screen man said:

"It's a shameful case, and I'll keep an eye on you! It is just such trifling conduct as yours, sir, which has brought this country to where it is. Why didn't you tell me when I came in that you didn't want a fly-screen door?"—Detroit Free Press.

The Beauties of "Ground Rent."

"Do you know our largest real estate owners don't pay hardly any taxes, and some of them pay none at all?" suggested a lawyer the other day.

"How can that be?" asked the reporter.

"The fee simple title to about one-tenth of all the ground within the city proper, that is, of that lying between the hills, is in families who have perpetually leased the land, subject to ground rents. Ground rent is one of the nicest things in the world for the owner of it, but an awful aggravation for the owner of the leasehold. The owner of the fee never worries about his rents like the landlords do, for he not only has a lien for his rents upon the ground, but also upon all improvements erected upon the land by tenants. If the tenants fail to pay, the owner steps in and takes all improvements. Consequently his rents are as secure to him as taxes are to the county. In all cases where property is leased for more than fourteen years the statutes say the lessee shall pay all taxes. So you see the bloated ground-rent proprietor pays not a cent of tax. He is never worried with assessments for street improvements, nor fire insurance, nor making repairs, nor painting, nor putting dead-beat tenants out of the house. All the labor he performs is like that of the coupon-clipper."—Cincinnati Enquirer Interview.

Formation of English Public Opinion.

There must be some reason for the London papers being always wrong in their estimate of public opinion, and this reason, I take it, is that their editors and powerful writers still fancy that West End clubs and West End drawing rooms are places where public opinion is formed. This was the case when the country was governed by rival London coteries between whom there was little real difference in fundamental issues. At that time the people took very little interest in politics, and beyond an election as anything but a fight between the blues and the yellows.—London Truth.

Discovery of a New Substance.

Professor Stannford, the English Edison, has discovered a new substance which promises to become a popular article of commerce. "Algine," a residuum of macerated fucus (sea-tang), combines the qualities of a mordant, an esculent, and a superlative adhesive. It has a variety of colors used by cotton-dyers. In certain combinations it is as nutritious as grape-sugar, while in its forms its adhesiveness exceeds that of gum-arabic not less than twenty-six times.—Cm. Chicago Times.

Proposing to Boycott the Gentiles.

The Mormon church proposes to boycott the Gentiles in Utah. All Mormons who dare to patronize Gentiles are to be disfellowshipped.—Inter Ocean.

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