

C. C. GOODWIN, Editor

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The Mayor and the Red Light

MAYOR BRANSFORD has removed Chief Pitt ostensibly on the score of the much-discussed Red Light District, they not agreeing upon the proper site for the delectable headquarters of the soiled contingent. In explaining his reasons, Mayor Bransford says the raids of Sheriff Emery have scattered the social evil all over town. He treats the matter as an evil which the ages have been unable to suppress, and gives his views as to the best way of exercising such control over the evil as will result in the least harm. In some quarters he is attacked as though he was establishing something new, and altogether against the law. In this connection it should be remembered that it has always been against the law, but it has existed and flourished here, since long, long before the dominant church lost control of the city, and what the Mayor recommends is merely a change of location. The wholesale personal abuse of the lesser Smoot organ ought not to count with decent men. No one, not even the editor of the Smoot organ, believes that Mayor Bransford has any mercenary reasons for his act, though he may own property near the old Red Light quarter, or that he has been a promoter of the enterprise, or the chief agent back of the movement. As mayor he simply advocates his idea of the best plan to treat with an evil that cannot be stamped out. Neither does he commit his party in any way, for the platform of the party and its leading spirits are diametrically opposed to him.

But the assailing of the mayor as an unclean man personally, will fall stillborn. Neither is there anything in his statement to justify the charge that he personally expects to make money by the move, not a scintilla of evidence that he holds any stock in the sinister enterprise. He alone is personally responsible for his act and frankly gives his reasons, that he believes it is the best way to deal with an unavoidable evil.

Passing Away

COL. STERRETT is here to make arrangements for the grand encampment next summer. In reply to a question, he said: "Two-thirds of the men who enlisted in the great war have gone to the other side. The record of last year was that one veteran died every six minutes and 144 died each day; a full regiment of 1,000 died each week; a brigade of four regiments, every month, and two great corps, each of 25,000 men, died during the year."

It will be seen by that how swiftly the whole glorified host is passing on, and how a few years hence there will be none left. They went out in the flower of youth; they interposed their breasts, a living wall, between their country and their country's foes. Many died in battle, many died in hospitals, the host has been lessening ever since until two-thirds have passed away. At the rate they died last year the last one will have gone in fifteen years more, but the great majority will not last that long.

They offered all they had for their country, they survived every ordeal, but now the inexorable years are having their way and the march is almost done. With a renewed reverence each year the arms of the nation should be drawn

around the sacred band to steady their steps, to cheer their way down the last decline.

Think of it, every six minutes the folding doors of death swing back to receive one of their number; every day 144 pass away, and every week a full regiment. In the old days during the war, even in the most exciting periods of it, there were rests. There is no rest to this march toward the grave, and the record in the south is almost as great.

We believe every officer of exalted rank who fought in the war has passed away, except Gen. Howard, and the rank and file are swiftly following. There is a perpetual sounding of taps. Let us hope that every morning the reveille in the land beyond the stars, sounded on silver bugles and softly rolling drums, brings out the full contingent and those that, failing to answer roll call here, will answer in the beyond, and rejoice that the Elysian fields have been won and the long march finally finished.

Congress and the Message

CONGRESS met on Monday last, the President's message was delivered on Tuesday.

Each house remained in session but a few minutes, then adjourned, the senate out of respect for the late Senator Allison, the house in respect for four members who have died since congress took its summer recess.

Death has made great inroads upon the senate in the last few years: Hoar, West, Quay, Morrill, Morgan, Pettus, Allison, all men who for years presented distinct personalities and were of national and international fame, and whose characters left the nation in mourning when they died.

The message of the President is strong and terse though very long—the ablest message he ever presented to congress. It is a vast improvement over the message of a year ago, both in matter and in tone, and most of his recommendations will be approved of by the country.

Chief Sheets

CHIEF SHEETS was the most capable chief of police this city ever had, one of the most capable ever seen in the west. He was driven from office by a gang, who had no case against him, but who put up a bogus prosecution against him, in the hope that thereby they might bring disfavor upon the party that gave him the place. If His Honor, the mayor, could decide that he ought to be restored to the place, we believe it would be but a simple act of justice to a much-wronged man, and it would add to the safety of the city more than twenty new policemen added to the force could.

The Kaiser and Old Queen Bess

THE NATION claims that the men of Germany are still much incensed against their emperor, and ascribe it to the manner of his concession to the Reichstag, making it appear ambiguous and grudging, and contrasting it with the surrender of old Queen Bess, when her controversy with the House of Commons had become dangerous, declaring that "the Queen knew how to retreat gracefully" and quotes Macaulay's words: There seemed for a moment to be some danger that the long and glorious reign of Elizabeth would have a shameful and disastrous end. She, however, with admirable judgment and temper declined the contest, put herself at the head of the reforming party, redressed the grievance, thanked the Commons in touching and dignified language for their tender care of the general weal, brought back to herself the hearts of the people, and left to her successors a memorable example of the way in which it behooves a ruler to deal with public movements which he has not the means of resisting."

That is a good example to cite, but then the

circumstances were different from those facing the German emperor. In England in the last days of the fifteenth century it was but a step from the throne to the block when public opinion turned that way. The great Armada had been destroyed, the danger of war that had menaced England through all the long reign of Elizabeth, had been removed; the people for the first time believed they were invincible and they were a dangerous crowd to quarrel with. Moreover, the crown had been doing some things which she knew were wrong in retaliation for Parliament usurping as she thought some of her prerogatives; moreover her life was almost spent and she was afraid of death, hence her surrender. The circumstances are very different in Germany. The Kaiser believes that it is his house that has made Germany so great; the imperialism that Bismarck taught clings to him; he has never been seriously crossed before and he does not take to it kindly. He in the prime of his manhood, with vast schemes before him and the aged queen with not much left but the memories of the splendors and the crimes of her life behind her, are vastly different. Still the mighty queen was greater than is the emperor. Her life made an era in England. She found her country torn with dissensions and menaced by the most powerful ruler of her day; she made it the most sovereign nation of the old world, with possessions vastly extended and in profound peace. A great old queen was she.

The National University

THE Common Council of Florence has voted to celebrate the semi-centennial of the Tuscan revolution of 1858, by the founding of a permanent gallery of modern art, native and foreign. Why is there not a useful hint in the foregoing? Many plans for a monument to the memory of Abraham Lincoln have been considered. Would not a great national university created in his name and properly adorned, be the best possible monument to his memory? He made his great fame in Washington; he died there; he never had a university training, why not found a national school to be supported as West Point and Annapolis are, for the creation of improved education, its students being selected by competition in every state and for their acquirements made wards of the nation for four years? An appointment to such a school would be an honor to be sought for, and to graduate from such a school would be a certificate of character on which there would not be one stain. A diploma from any university is a splendid thing, it is prima-facie evidence of education and character, but almost anyone with money enough can attend a university. To have one university to which none could go except on merit in competition with all other students in his state, would make a select band, and it would interfere with no other school; rather it would have a tendency to incite better work in every other university in the country. And Lincoln's statue in the rotunda would be a notice to every student, that fame is more liable to attach to character than to all else, that patriotism if deep enough and self-sacrificing enough, holds within itself elements of greatness which exalt the possessor, and that if in the prosecution of a holy duty death comes to a man that in itself cannot put out the light of a great soul, rather it lends to it an immortal sheen. The nation should have such a university for the nation's good and to give a new incentive to the youth of the land to do their best.

What Exalts a Nation

BEFORE men learned of the one God they invented gods, so intense, in humanity is the idea of worshiping superior beings; so intense is man's desire to be linked in some form with immortals. It was natural as man grew out of barbarism to learn to lean on a hope of a higher existence and natural to clothe that