

The Prison Mirror.

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THE PRISON MIRROR is a weekly paper published in the Minnesota State Prison. It was founded in 1887 by the convicts and is edited and managed by them. Its objects are: to be a home newspaper; to encourage moral and intellectual improvement among the prisoners; to acquaint the public with the true status of the prisoner; to disseminate penological information, and to aid in dispelling that prejudice which has ever been the bar sinister to a fallen man's self-redemption. The paper is entirely dependent on the public for its financial support. If at any time there should accrue a surplus of funds the money would be expended in the interests of the prison library.

The Worthington, Minn., *Advance* has changed hands; but under the guidance of Mr. C. L. Eastwood will lose none of its vitality or usefulness.

From a cut and article in the *Home Guard* for Sept. we learn that the city of Providence, R. I., has put itself on record as having the most complete idiot or most heartless man as a judge. Two babies eight and nine years old were fined \$23.50 for "malicious mischief." Being of very poor parents, justice could not be satisfied by the payment of the fine, so Providence's Justice Shallow committed the children to the county jail.

Every father and mother throughout the land should give voice to scornful abhorrence of such heartless idiocy. None know of the debasing horrors of prison life except those who have been in the toils.

A TOO FREE COUNTRY.

Some legislators from the South are trying to repeal the federal election law which is the only safeguard to an independent, honest vote on the election of president that the South has. These same repealers claim that there is no discrimination or outrage in their section of a supposedly civilized country. But the records of the brutalities and disregard of law during the past week must set every right thinking man wondering as to what kind of barbarism he is part of. At Columbus, Miss., five negroes were shot to death by a mob in the very jail wherein they were confined on suspicion of having burned some barns. A negro in Missouri was lynched on suspicion of having committed a criminal assault. On Sept. 17, almost within the limits of New Orleans, three negroes were hanged because they were suspected of aiding their own brother, a murderer, to escape from the mob. Because he would not or could not show where the murderer was, another negro was kicked to death by the same gang.

Is this the last decade of the nineteenth century? Are Missouri, Alabama, New Orleans parts of a boasted free land? Did the North spend a billion of treasure and a million of lives to break the material shackles of slavery from off the negroes to surrender them to the ungoverned, unlawful brutality of worse than savages? Instead of abolishing federal election laws the men of America should make those lawless districts bristle with federal bayonets till every traitor to the nation's good name were hanged. O Lincoln! O ye myriad martyrs to a forgotten cause! Arise from your wasted graves and arouse in this people the knowledge that they are not yet a nation whose humblest citizen can rest assured of life and liberty under the supreme shadow of his nation's flag.

LIQUOR.

While believing that prohibition is contrary to human rights and divine

law, we are a strict upholder of temperance and maintain that any man or woman, not an idiot, can be sober and temperate if such desire exists. Goff gave to man the knowledge of good and evil, a reason to deduce effect from cause, and a will to execute the conclusions arrived at by the exercise of his reason. The prohibitionist practically asserts that man is an unreasoning creature without will-power; having arrived at this conclusion, he immediately stultifies himself by demanding that man shall be protected from liquor alone. To be thorough, the advocates of prohibition should go to the root of all evil—money. By prohibiting money they would not only protect man against drink, but greed, uncharitableness, robbery, theft, embezzlement and fraud of all kinds; these crimes would at once cease with the non-existence of money. Without money to create the acquisitive desire, a universal fraternalism would be soon not only possible but assured; the natural sociability and good-fellowship of man would bloom in all its infant and pristine purity and freshness, and the millennium would be near.

Jesus was a temperance lecturer but not a prohibitionist. He preached the "temperate in all things" with gentle persistence and was never led into inductive except against hypocrisies and money. He favored the use of wine by his miracle at Cana, but never failed to decry and belittle money. He had charity and forgiveness for the publican, the sinner and the thief; but he could point out no pathway to a happy hereafter for the rich man except the shedding of his wealthy slough, whereby to stand on the common level of an universal fraternalism.

Temperance in all things demands an exercise of will. If one drink weakens a man's will-power he must abstain from that drink. If, having the will to abstain, man yet debauches himself with drink, he should be treated as any other criminal and offender against society. If he has not the will-power, he should be treated as any other idiot and placed in an institution for idiots and imbeciles.

Our reformatory discipline here fairly demonstrates the value of this theory. Men in prison are either wilful criminals or helpless imbeciles who have no control over themselves. The third grade may be styled, with a few accidental exceptions, the prison and insane asylum of this community of 420 criminals or imbeciles; yet, there are less than four per cent. who lack sufficient will-power to avoid its disagreeabilities. If ninety-six per cent. of supposedly criminals and imbeciles can avoid the innumerable petty pitfalls of prison discipline, surely the per centage of those capable of exerting will should be greater among those who have shown sufficient ability and force of character to escape prisons or insane asylums.

Send the liquor criminal or liquor fool to an industrial-reformatory institution; there make him work hard to earn his own means of support and send the balance of his labor product to support his family if they are dependent on his daily labor for their sustenance. Curb the evil by proper legislative enactments and place honest men to enforce those curative laws. Let there be no option, but make it compulsory to a breach of the liquor laws that the license to sell is revoked, that the same individual never again gets a license, that he pays a heavy fine and that the police officer and captain in whose beat and jurisdiction the offense is committed are summarily removed. Make it to the paramount interest of all concerned that the laws be observed, and they will be.

CURRENCY.

Mr. Swope, a Pennsylvania stock holder of the N. P., makes grave specific charges of fraud and robbery against Villard and other directors of the wrecked railroad. He is rude enough not to

accept a say-so for gospel. This impertinent desire of Mr. Swope's in wanting to know where his money went to will be hurtful to the feelings of all corporation wreckers. They are sensitive creatures who believe themselves robbers by divine right and above inquisition.

The United States Supreme Court will not need any excessive laudations from the press of the country, because it has a Hornblower of its own; W. B. Hornblower of New York having been named to succeed Judge Blatchford deceased.

Austria deprives portions of Bohemia of trial by jury for one year. Yet because the Bohemians are not a large and powerful political factor there is no howl from our demagogues, though the decree suspends many constitutional rights.

The rumored intention of the Pope of abandoning St. Peter's, The Vatican and Rome is evidence of the growing power of liberalism in Italy. The spirits of Garibaldi, Gavazzi and Cavour will hold a ratification meeting to celebrate the fulfillment of their soul's ideal.

The Senate has consumed another week in useless talk over silver. Senatorial courtesy is all very well when bowing, scraping and after-you-are not tending to prolong a terrible malady. But when the people have demanded of them to do a duty promptly, to give relief, there should be no time wasted in by-your-leave nonsense.

It is reported that China is taking steps to reorganize, re-arm with best modern weapons and discipline an army of one million soldiers. This, conjointly with Siam's stiff neckedness towards France, may mean that European powers shall not run amuck in eastern Asia without the consent of the people of the Orient, at least without a fight.

The address of President Cleveland during the exercises celebrating the centenary of the Capitol's foundation laying was a sharp and merited rebuke to both houses of congress for dilatoriness in the conduct of business which brooked no delay. A well defined black mark should be made against the names of all who are wasting time and delaying the nation's recovery from its silver colic.

The unprecedented drought of this summer has rendered the plineries susceptible to the worst influences of the fire fiend and he took hold of the opportunity of recent high winds to lay waste on enormous tract of northwestern Wisconsin. Marshfield, Junction City and Ashland barely escaped the destruction that overtook many small settlements. The estimates of loss of life and property are at present unreliable but are very high.

The rush for the Cherokee strip was a big gamble for choice spots. About twice as many made the rush as could be well accommodated with locations. Many disgusted with the inhospitable appearance of the land of promise, turned back in time to escape the drought and prairie fires that destroyed many lives. The new territory is on social conditions about on a par with Oklahoma. To become a comfortable place to live in it will require some artificial means of water supply, of which an abundance is not found above ground.

The convention of representatives from all religious denominations at Chicago is one of the marvels of this age of progress. It is almost a fulfillment of the sixty-fifth chapter of Isaiah, "the wolf and the lamb shall feed together and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock." The followers of Islam, Buddha, Confucius and Christ mingle peacefully with idolaters and fire-worshippers from Persia and India. Swords of bigotry are sheathed and tongues of tolerance give utterance to laudations of a Supreme Being. It is a magnificent and eloquent refutation of atheistic and agnostic tenencies and should undoubtedly lead to moral advancement.

We all know that we would be better off; the probability is that some of us would be on the outside enjoying liberty to-day, if their was no such thing as intoxicating drink in this country. But we also know that as long as liberty is liberty, that it would be just as sensible to form a political party whose sole aim would be to compel all men to become philosophers, as one to compel all men to become total abstainers. We know that as long as freedom is freedom, no laws can be enacted to deprive a man of that which he receives.

O. K.

The following is an essay in the *Mayfield Monitor* by one of the town's precocious youngsters:

"Any girl that will let one boy kiss her will let any other one that wants to. So with a drunkard—after he takes his first drink he is sure to take his second."

In Good Shape.

Barber: How does the razor feel?
Sufferer: It ought to feel pretty good; it has a strong pull!—Puck.

NEWS OF A WEEK.

September 13.

Brazil torn by revolt.
House legislation to wait on silver repeal.
England's hand appears in Siamese matters.
Bohemia gets a touch of tyranny for favoring home rule.
Silver men decline to fix a day for voting on the repeal question.
Federal election law repeal shelved at present for fear of blocking action on silver.
Gladstone promulgates a manifesto against the Lords under cover of the National Liberal Association, not daring to appeal to the people.
Action begun in the supreme court of Pennsylvania against Villard and other N. P. directors for specific frauds and general wrecking.

September 14.

Deadwood, S. D., in danger from forest fires.
Insurgents strong and expected to be victorious in Brazil.
Weeks the embezzler of \$1,300,000 is arrested in Costa Rica.
Bank of England discount rate is reduced and shows that panic is over.
The election law repeal in the House causes a schism in the Democratic party.
Neighborhood of Marshfield and Junction City Wis., ravaged by fearful forest fires.
Meintjes does 26 miles 10 yards in one hour on his bicycle, breaking records from six miles up.
System of registration of would-be settlers on the Cherokee strip reported bad and unjust.

September 15.

W. C. T. U., closes its session at Minneapolis.
The province of Toledo, Spain, laid waste by storms and floods.
A shortage of 5,000 ounces of gold bullion in the Philadelphia mint vaults.
The Governor called upon to call an extra session to provide labor for the unemployed.
Voorhees seems unable to make head against silver men's aggressiveness in the Senate.
Drought and high winds cause great destruction by fire throughout the Northwest.
Train stopped in the western peninsular of Michigan and robbed of \$75,000, evidently by men knowing the pay-day of the mines.

September 16.

Senator Allison talks silver repeal.
Voorhees argues for night sessions of the Senate without avail.
A negro lynched at Nevada, Mo., for criminally assaulting a young girl.
Gladstone will not appeal to the country, but will move for radical reform.
Four supposed robbers of the northern Michigan train arrested; one proves an alibi.
France will allow Russia to form a naval depot at Villefranche on the Mediterranean.
Archbishop Hennessey of Dubuque invested with the sacred insignia of office sent from Rome.
Cherokee strip invaded by 100,000 home seekers. A town of 20,000 inhabitants at once started.
The mint robber caught. He drew the gold out with a rake from between the sealed bars; \$100,000 recovered stored in his house.

September 17.

Belgian miners determined to strike.
Criminals said to be rampant in St. Paul.
Ashland, Wis., threatened by forest fires.
Floods in Spain drown very many people.
Many Cherokee strip boomers return dissatisfied.
Splendid bank statement improves business outlook.
Many killed in the rush for locations in the Cherokee strip.
Propellers collide, and one is sunk, in Duluth harbor, without loss of life.
Three negroes, supposed to have helped their brother (a murderer) to escape, are lynched because the crowd missed the real criminal.

September 18.

Senatorial delay detrimental to business interests.
The Pope may leave Rome and establish the Holy See in Spain.
Michigan train robbers captured; but little of the money recovered.
The governor declines to call an extra session of the Minnesota legislature.
Prairie fires sweep the Cherokee strip and cause the death of many boomers.
Emperor of Austria's life endangered by the plotted attempts to wreck the imperial train.
One of Seattle's wide awake citizens captures the defaulting treasurer of that city in St. Paul.
President Cleveland rebukes congressional dilatoriness about the nation's business in his address at the celebration of the Capitol's centenary.

September 19.

Railroads running into Chicago very busy.
Compromise on silver talked in the senate.
Brazilian revolutionists fighting in the interests of a monarchy.
China arming and disciplining an army of one million on modern principles.
St. Paul Commercial club urges Northwest-erners to support home manufacturers.
Collision on I. C. R. R. near Manteno, Ill., results fatally to eight and many more likely to die.
Streeter, vice president of the Northwestern Guaranty Loan Co., Minneapolis, arrested for fraud.
Federal election law again attacked by democrats in the House, Speaker Crisp participating.
A crank talks at Buffalo about an American Protective association to drive Roman catholics from municipal offices and public school teaching.