SEEKING THE REMEDY

Judge Horton Gives His Ideas of the Moral and Legal Responsibility.

And He, with Dr. H. A. Johnson, Believes Good Will Come of "The Times's" Crusade Against Infanticide.

A Scathing Letter Directed at Preachers Too Cowardly to Speak Against the Great Crime.

"Now, I would like to tell you all I think and feel on this subject, for I have been keeping up with, and am heartily in sympathy with, and approve of THE TIMES'S stand in this thing, but the public will not readily separate my individual opinion from my judicial position." Thus spoke Judge O. H. Horton of the Circuit court.

"You see, I may have to act in some cases growing out of this matter and it would naturally be inferred that the opinions of an honest man as an individual would be the opinions of that man on the bench. But, I may say that I think good has and will yet come of this exposure. In a legal point of view an investigation should be made by the proper authorities, and if THE TIMES is correctly reporting this thing prosecutions should follow, if not justice to the men and women written up demands that they be vindicated."

"Is there not in chapter 38, sections 6, 45, and 46 of the penal code laws that would incriminate any one consenting to practice abortion or giving prescriptions for that purpose, or giving information that would indicate who would do it?"

"Well, it seems that section 6 might lead to indictment for conspiracy between any two agreeing to bring it about, and the other section might apply to any one advertising or otherwise giving information that would tell who would do it or who would give any prescription or instrument, or tell where such could be procured for the purpose of bringing about an abortion. The penalties for these are very severe, and if those sections are made to apply in the cases you have written up it will go hard with the parties, of course. I have not given those sections much study yet. But if they, or a new law, could be made to apply as regards a conspiracy to a crime, or it should be made penal to solicit any one to commit this wholesale murder, for such it is, then you would see a falling off in it. At least nine in ten physicians will refuse to do anything of the kind; and, when a woman knows that she has nine chancies of being refused to one of consent among doctors, and that to ask one to do this is a penal offense, she will not run the risk of missing that one and being exposed by the nine. This is the legal aspect of the case, briefly stated. It is bound to result in good, in my opinion, in bringing about both a change in the laws on it and in their execution.

"Socially, it is going to do good, I think. We have been too prudish in these matters in our families; been treating our daughters especially as if they didn't have sense enough to distinguish between knowledge of sacredly private matters imparted for pure and lofty purposes and simply for the gratification of a knowledge of forbidden knowledge. The truth is our boys and our girls learn all these things and more at an early age. It is much better that they learn them from their parents, both by word and from the best authorities, and at the same time learn their high and sacred purposes in society and the family, than that they should learn them by chance, as they do, together with the promiscuous evil attending the learning of these things in this manner. It is not from the lower classes, so-called, we find this practice. It is from "the avenues," as it is termed, in the main. And married women furnish most of these. How can such a mother, if some accident should make her a mother, properly train a daughter? Make abortion so disgraceful and abortionists so odious and unpopular that no family of respectability will let the carriage of one of those abortionists drive up to their door, and so that no woman who respects herself and her family will dare go to the office of one, and you will see this thing about stopped in these circles. Let THE TIMES go on, say I. Good is bound to come of it."

Dr. H. A. Johnson.

Dr. H. A. Johnson of 4 Sixteenth street, who was the chief founder of the Chicago Medical college in March, 1859, and who has been one of the most prominent physicians in the northwest for over thirty years, and a member of the national board of health, said to THE TIMES reporter yesterday:

"There is a misunderstanding as to the present law we have regulating the practice of medicine. The law we have, and which has been in operation since 1884, has done more to raise the standard of the medical profession than the old law did from 1877 to 1884. It ran several thousand incompetent doctors out of Illinois. Great complaint was made from neighboring states that we were running our quacks over to them. Especially was this cry raised in Michigan and Indiana, where they had no adequate laws to protect the people.

"I admit it could be made better, and now would be a good time to get it done. I think each applicant hereafter for license to practice should be made to pass a thorough examination before a competent board and his license granted only on passing a satisfactory examination, and that a diploma should be held of no value except as a certificate of character, though, like the law in Germany, the holding of such diploma from a recognized medical college of first-class standing should be a requisite for admittance before the board to be examined. In other words, a diploma should be required as evidence of character, but not counted as evidence of scientific qualifications.

"I think the board should have, as a corollary to its power to grant, the power to revoke licenses for cause. Of course it would have to be nicely defined as to what was unprofessional conduct in a legal sense as distinct from what doctors might regard as such among themselves. It has power now to do this, but is embarrassed by technicalities. As Cicero said in his first denunciation of Catiline, "It is not so much the authority we lack as an intelligent execution of the law which makes it difficult to reach Catiline and hurl him out of this senate and from Rome." So we might say to a great extent of our law on this subject. The fierce invectives of Cicero more than the operation of law caused the banishment of Catiline. So it may be that a great reform will be brought about by the power and force of THE TIMES's exposures. We need a law that will be as a school to teach the strictest regard for morals in this. It is said that the most eminent medical schools of Greece required the students to take an oath to rigidly observe the teachings of Hippocrates to the effect that no one would aid or assist any woman to bring about an abortion for any cause except to save the mother's life, as it is always held, where the sacrifice of one life is necessary, that the woman's is more valuable than the child's.

"As to the good to arise from the agitation of this subject there must be a division of opinion. In many respects it must do good. It will teach the public how widespread is the evil, and will also show how unanimous is the sentiment of the profession, as well as those outside of the profession, whose moral opinions and lives are of the highest, against the terrible practice. But at the same time a great change must be wrought in the public morals to eradicate it, though this sort of a move will check it some. It is certain that Eve's mother did not practice it, but all are not so certain about Eve herself. Certainly at an early period in the world's history her daughters did.

"The lying-in hospital is needed, and I am glad there is a discussion of the subject, as we may now secure such an institution."

Dr. Harold N. Moyer.

"There is no remedy," said Dr. Harold N. Moyer. "I would qualify that statement, however, by saying that the evil may be lessened by a strict enforcement of the law, followed by wholesome convictions.

"This practice of abortion has been carried on apparently through all ages. It is a social evil which can only be obviated by the inculcation of a higher moral sentiment. I am afraid that so long as people desire to thwart nature they will find some one willing to assist them.

"The press and the pulpit are the generally accepted agencies of reform, and if they can succeed in strengthening the general tone of morality they will by so much lessen the crime of infanticide. I must say that I do not place much faith in the efficacy of law as at present administered. The Illinois statutes on this point are all that some physicians have asked, but they are not enforced. Section 1, paragraph 9, of the statute bearing upon the licensing of physicians says:

"'The state board of health may refuse to issue the certificates provided for in section 2 to individuals guilty of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, and it may revoke such certificates for like cause. In all cases of refusal or revocation the applicant may appeal to the governor, who may affirm or overrule the decision of the board, and this decision shall be final.' What more power is needed than that for the revocation of a dishonorable physician's license? But the law is not enforced.

"Again, the detective system here appears to be of no account. Fitness for the apprehension of criminals doesn't seem to be the most important among the qualifications necessary to secure a position on our detective force. When a case of criminal practice is discovered the newspapers immediately publish all the details, and the malpractitioner, being put on his guard, knows just how to plan to get out of the scrape, either by fixing up a plausible story or leaving the city."

Dr. D. R. Brower.

"I'm afraid I'm a pessimist in regard to legislation on this question," said Dr. D. R. Brower at 70 State street. "I mean by that that in view of past experience with the Illinois legislature I am not sanguine of getting needed laws on this subject. That the present law needs amending in several necessary features there is no doubt. But, with the legislative action on our insanity laws before my mind I do not hope for that body to give us the law needed in this matter. We need a law that will give the board of examiners power to revoke a license for cause and that will not compel it to give a license on a diploma. We also need a law that will put these abortionists out of the way; expel them for agreeing to perform or aid in bringing about an abortion, and that will punish women for the same thing also. Such a law properly framed would tend to make doctors respect and keep the oath of Hippocrates on this subject.

"I am of the opinion that this discussion will do good, and while I don't agree with THE TIMES all the way through I think that in the main good will come of its exposures. We may be able by the agitation to form public opinion so as to induce the legislation needed; it will certainly do much toward bringing many doctors who will commit the crime to abandon it, and it will, I believe, start such a reflection on the subject by the women as will deter many from seeking to have it done. Certainly it is in this line that a great revolution is needed. But you have started them to talking about it. A woman was in to see me the other day and said that as far as she was concerned she and her husband would not have any more children if they did not want them, it mattered not what was said and written on the subject. Of course a case like this tells its own story. It was a woman of wealth and prominence. I am heartily in favor of the lying-in hospital. We have several first-class hospitals here already with lying-in departments which are under excellent management."

Obsta Principiis.

TO THE EDITOR: In your editorial of Dec. 29 you state that considerable surprise is expressed that the ministers of the gospel in Chicago are not coming to the front aiding you in your grand, noble, manly, Christian work in exposing the prenatal child-murderers.

This fact should not be a surprise to the close observer of passing events. I will interrupt myself by stating that great interest is taken in your outspoken, fearless course in advocating a high and better moral status of our physicians. This is as it should be. God bless you in your good work.

Dr. Harris is no doubt correct in stating that your proposed law will not regulate conscience or do away with avarice. Truth, every word of it, but the law proposed is in the right direction and we hope it may pass and be enforced.

Now to our text: "Resist the first beginnings." We, as a people that pay for the ministry of the gospel should insist, demand, of our ministers that they come to the front in this holy work and assist our good physicians in uprooting an evil, yes, a crime, that is "nourished among the pew-holders." And if they will not by precept and example, then by law should they be compelled to cease the work of undermining the moral structure of our young people in the beginning of crime-doing. Why not see to it that the police "pull" every church gambling raffle of our city? Why pass laws for the punishment of gambling and like crimes and permit the church organizations to sow the seeds of law-breaking under the pretense that the end justifies the means? Are not church raffles and festivals agencies in breaking down in our children's minds that due respect for honest money-making and simple, healthful living so necessary to true manhood. Why "pull" gambling-dens that are but the full-grown, ripened fruitage of the gambling grab-bag of the church — the harvest of the popular church seed-sowing? Why hold our mouths closed when we should open them in defense of our children, born and unborn? The vile abortionists are murderers in the sight of God and all good men and women; they kill the unborn babes. The polite, gentle, good-mannered ministers — that class, I mean, that cares only for the fleece of the flock — that preach of the great sinfulness of sin and never of individual crime, when in the face of the fact they must know that crime is practiced continually; that go on in the work of condemning the morals of our children, by the sin of omission in keeping silent or permitting the beginning of, or the seeds of crime to be sown by their churches, are but the pre-natal murderers of our children's morals.

Why do they permit the prostituting of our most beautiful and charming young women to the work of catering to the appetite and passions of our young men for the one end of money-getting? Why prostitute our loved ones to the work of catching the hard-earned money of toiling clerks in the "10-cents-to-get-in-and-$5-to-get-out" socials? Why use the most beautiful of our homes in seducing young men to give beyond their means? Why make the beauties of our churches tempters in winning, by their charming ways, the young men's money, and leaving their power occupy the giddy height of a false life? They, in the moments of over self-confidence, become the seduced, and to hide their shame become the patrons of the "overstocked profession" and the victims of the abortionist?

Why fight the dagger and charge it with the crime of murder? Yes, fight the vile abortionists that aid the fallen to add murder to their guilt. But let not up on the source that creates the crime that makes the abortionist fat and sleek. Go on with your fight and expose the abortionist child-murderers, but let not up on the seed-sowers of both soul and body murders — that class of ministers that walk our streets and every other street of this great nation, wrapped in self-righteousness, with smiling faces, but having hearts too cowardly to speak out against crime in its first beginning lest it offend and imperil their bread and butter. No wonder the clergymen from the great northwest solicit funds now and then to have a Small and a Moody "do" their work for them and import evangelists to do temperance work.

Will not the good ministry fight at the one end of the crime of the day, the beginning — and the good physicians at the other end, and then the work will begin to move to the end of upbuilding a better and higher manhood? A good beginning makes a good ending. Good preachers and good doctors, with the aid of THE TIMES, can do much to bless the world. O. TEMPORA.

Medical Colleges Responsible.

Dr. M. A. McClelland of 2630 Prairie avenue, in a report to the Illinois State Medical society in 1883, on "The Desirability and Practicability of Separating Teaching in Medicine and Licensing to Practice," made some statements directly applicable to the case in hand. He said:

"Herein I have tried to show some of the evils arising from power delegated to too many examining and licensing bodies, not the least among which was the falling of the office of the physician in the estimation of the public. What was and is true in Great Britain is still more true in the United States and Canada, in which there are some 120 (including Bellevue college, Massachusetts, the sapiency of the courts having declared that it has done nothing but what the state had authorized it to do) bodies incorporated to teach, examine, and license often the most illiterate and immoral. Who of this society does not know of persons filling the office of physician 'legally' whose notoriety is simply that of the abortionist? Individual members are powerless to prevent this. So long as legislators grant, with facility, charters, just so long will we be told 'the state' has authorized this corporation to issue degrees, and it has been done according to legal right. It can not be argued that the issue is fraudulent any more than an allopath can claim that a homeopathic college issues degrees fraudulently. The law makes the faculty of the colleges the sole judges of the eligibility of applicants for diplomas. 'There is no legal restriction, no legal requirement. If the faculty choose to issue degrees to incompetent persons the laws of this state authorize it. This is not, therefore, a scheme to defraud under the statute.' Possibly it may not be under the statute, but it is fraud nevertheless, and none know it better than the courts which give such opinions; yet such things are allowed to continue."

In conclusion Dr. McClelland demands that the examination of those seeking the honors of the doctorate be removed from the functions of those who teach and who receive the financial benefit of such successful examination.

Graduated Quacks.

LACON, Ill., Dec 30.—*To the Editor:* We note with pleasure your exposure of the "quacks" or men pretending to be physicians. We ask, Are all possessors of diplomas received of medical colleges physicians? We think not. Often they are the worst frauds and educated scoundrels, having but one idea, "while they are getin', git a plenty." We know of a case in point: A married lady of known good character was afflicted with a skin disease. She consulted a graduate of a respectable medical college and he pronounced it venereal. Judge of the condition of that lady's mind, and the suspicion under which the husband was placed. Hush money was paid and the husband was bled to the tune of thousands of dollars, but she did not improve under the graduat's quack treatment. The husband then placed her under the care of another physician, by whom he was informed that his wife's trouble was not of a venereal character and never had been, and by the most simple treatment she was healed. If that quack graduate was to be placed on trial for obtaining money under false pretenses professional ethics would shield him. Yet that husband and wife were wronged by that scoundrel in mind and purse and the graduated quack goes on swindling the afflicted poor and rich alike today.

Would the doctors of America punish such a scoundrel as this any, more than they do now if the law were made to punish such impostors? Would not they, when put on the stand as expert witnesses, as is often the case, quibble and evade giving testimony that would convict one that had graduated?

Go on with your good work. The people and all honest physicians are for you and will sustain you as far as they can. Cut to the quick, and if possible drive out of the field the professional murderers of unborn infants and also scoundrelly graduates of medical colleges. ANTI QUACK.

The Unfortunate Man.

TO THE EDITOR: The remedy offered by your correspondent from Hyde Park in Monday's issue is truly heroic. Is it radical, covering the entire evil, or "derivative," relieving the present distress by determining the evil to another point, after the manner of the early practitioner, who produced a blister on the arm to cure a boil on the nose? As we understand "L. W.'s" premises, parentage implies and presupposes marriage. The twain become one flesh in the child. They are married. Let society recognize the fact and the state ratify it. Undoubtedly this would be well for the child, and the tendency of the age is to readjust the world to the interests of childhood. It would also be well for the "unfortunate woman," but how about the unfortunate man in the case? The possibility of such a revolution in the social and legal code is enough to make a man go softly all his days. At what age should a boy be "turned into the street" to make him sharp enough to comprehend and resist the designs of women older and wickeder than himself? To "make it impossible for a woman to be betrayed" is a noble idea in legislation, but under the proposed reign of the natural law of marriage the young sons of our best families would become prey, instead of shop and servant girls as now. Possibly it is only fair for them to take their turn at being victimized.

Let us hear from "L. W." on the side of the unfortunate man, doubly unfortunate if, as too often happens, he be previously married. In that case how would the "higher moral law" apply? C.

Dr. De Laskie Miller.

"Some measure is very sadly needed to raise the status of morals in the medical profession," said Dr. De Laskie Miller. "I should favor the passage of any law that would tend to have that effect. I do not believe in a state health board as it is at present constituted. There should be two separate and distinct bodies — one to look after sanitary measures and laws solely, and one relating to and governing the practice of medicine in the state. The latter board most assuredly should have examining power before granting licenses, and of course, revoking power. The great thing is the wise appointment of such a board. It is urged jealousy between colleges would arise. That depends upon who constitute the board. The conduct of examinations in a way to cause no jealousy is merely a matter of detail, to be secured easily by a separate board.

"No hospital in Chicago now subserves the purpose to be attained by a lying-in hospital. The idea seems exceedingly good. I do not think it would wipe out criminal practice entirely, but it would save many unfortunate girls from it and do a great deal toward alleviating misery."

Dr. H. P. Merriman.

"Yes, work for the provision of a new board of health and give it a power it badly needs," said Dr. H. P. Merriman, "To bring up the standard of ability among physicians where it ought to be. No mere college should have the right to grant a medical degree. They should have the power merely to issue certificates to students, stating their preparations to undergo examination by the state board. I have not given the subject a great deal of attention, but that is the form in England. The medical colleges of all her universities examine students merely to determine their fitness for the university examination after which only the degree is conferred. It means something then. But medical law has always been very confused in this country. For instance, dissection is not legalized, though required by law, as a necessary qualification to medical practice. In one place the law reads: 'No student shall be entitled to diploma who shall not have dissected for a period of two years.' In another place the same law attaches a heavy penalty for the procuring of bodies for that purpose, saying you must dissect to be physicians, but you shall be severely punished if you procure anything to dissect. However, the medical conscience is growing. Ten years ago in this state any hod-carrier could get a license to practice by the payment of $30 — probably an Indian or herb, or steam doctor, but with a degree. I am in favor of all the progress we need.

"Yes, a lying-in hospital such as has been proposed, would be especially good as a reformatory factor. You propose to keep girls some time after their children are born. If they stay with their children a short time they will keep them always. I know of one who tried to kill her baby just after its birth. A nurse had to watch her during the first day to prevent it. Her sister, who had agreed to take the child and was to come for it the second day, failed until the third. When she came the mother caught it to her breast and burst into tears of repentance and love for it. Keep the mothers with the babies and you save the mothers."

COULD NOT CRY FOR ASSISTANCE.

Two Mutes Drowned While Skating Near Columbus, O.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 1.—The State Institute for Deaf and Dumb lost two and probably three of its pupils today by drowning. The inmates were given a holiday and a large crowd of boys, forty or fifty in number, went to an ice-pond to skate. The ice was little more than an inch thick and where the boys were drowned the water was nine feet deep. Three of the boys who were more daring than the others started onto the ice, and meeting with fair success ran together for a scuffle. The ice gave way and they disappeared. The mute assemblage on the bank witnessed the drowning and dying struggles of their companions, being unable to extend any aid. A physician near by was called and the patrol wagon summoned from the city. The accident happened about 4 o'clock and it was 6 before the bodies were recovered. Only one Loy Dreslach, aged 13 was taken out alive, but he is so exhausted that it is thought he will die. He came to the surface where the ice was broken and clung to the edge for over an hour, when a log was pushed out to him. The two dead are Charles Swift, aged 28, who came here from Pennsylvania, and Jacob Reisfock, aged 13, who came from Cincinnati.

WITH THE WANDERERS.

Ex-Secretary of the United States Treasury William Windom passed the first day of the new year in Chicago while breaking the journey from New York to his home, Winona, Minn. "We are having a great senatorial fight in Minnesota," said he, "and just now it would be most difficult to name the winner. Messrs. Washburn and Sabin have the votes so evenly divided that they should leave the matter to the caucus. If it is settled outside of the caucus it will be found that Ignatius Donnelly is a formidable obstacle. He controls a part of the granger vote and is a very able man. If Mr. Donnelly's political stability was equal to his ability he could aspire to any position. Yes, even for the presidency. It is stated that he now controls thirty votes. That fact will not help Mr. Washburn, for they are not the best of friends and Donnelly would be liable to throw his strength to Sabin." Mr. Windom says the principal gossip in New York is about Gen. Harrison's cabinet timber, and he relates an incident at the expense of a Vermont politician. A few weeks ago a bevy of office aspirants who are waiting expectantly for a call to join the new cabinet called upon the president-elect. While returning from the house the eager Vermonter remarked that he thought the Green Mountain state would certainly be among the new timber from which the cabinet would be made. "What makes you think so?" was asked. He replied that while awaiting his turn to greet Gen. Harrison he overheard Russell say: "O, father look at that man from Vermont. He's a regular stick."

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Sauntering through the Palmer house rotunda last evening was a short man whose three-score years of existence were asserting themselves by the tell-tale streaks of gray in his mustache and chin whiskers. His hair was long and brushed high from the forehead. Although of short stature his form was erect and he walked with a sprightly step. From behind a pair of gold-rimmed glasses a pair of keen eyes was visible. He was Gen. John McDonald, who organized at his own expense the first regiment in the southern states that served in the Union army. Morgan Smith was made colonel of the regiment, but owing to many southern complications he was obliged to resign. Gen. McDonald then commanded his own brigade till the battle of Shiloh, when he retired from the regiment. Later he was given the command of Memphis, which was then occupied by federal soldiers, and promoted to the rank of general. After the war he acquired considerable notoriety by fighting the whisky ring, and only abandoned his persistent efforts at the death of Gen. Grant, under whose administration the alleged crooked transactions were said to have occurred. Gen. McDonald has been somewhat active in the political world. Four years ago he stumped for Cleveland and was interested in the Gresham boom last summer. Soon after the defeat of his favorite he retired from the arena and now will have nothing to do with politics except to vote.

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W. J. Adams, a cattle owner from the Black Hills, is at the Tremont. "Just now there is considerable agitation in my country," said he, "over the sudden removal of the United States land office from Deadwood to Rapid City. Last week orders from the land commissioner reached Deadwood to the effect that the Deadwood land office would be closed March 1 and opened March 20 at Rapid City. Last Thursday Commissioner Stockslager telegraphed a command to close the Deadwood office Dec. 31 and open it at Rapid City Jan. 15. This sudden announcement has caused no end of trouble and dissatisfaction. The settlers who were to pay for their lands before March have advertised and given notice, according to the law, of their intention to prove up at the Deadwood office. By this late unreasonable order their plans are null and they will be compelled to do the entire work over again. Dakota people never did love Commissioner Sparks, and that same feeling will exist toward Mr. Stockslager if he continues such an overbearing policy."

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The Grand Pacific has a guest from Carson, Nev., in the person of Stanley S. Johnson. He reports that quite a flutter of excitement exists at present among the Pacific slope politicians caused by the actions of Frank G. Newlands, who has lately purchased a house and will establish a residence at Carson. Mr. Newlands is one of the best-known democrats on the slope. He is the trustee of the immense Sharon estate, a greater part of which is located in Nevada. "The fact that one person has moved to Carson," said Mr. Johnson, "is not a great piece of news itself, but the movement of Mr. Newlands is quite significant and there is but one opinion among our politicians, and that is that Mr. Newlands has taken a preliminary step toward giving Senator Jones a rub for the United States senatorship two years from now."

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I. C. Robertson, secretary of the Texas Land & Cattle company of Dundee, Scotland, is at the Grand Pacific. He is returning home, having enjoyed a three months' visit to the Lone Star state inspecting the interests of his company. "Many Scotch capitalists lost large sums of money and considerable confidence in the cattle business of America by the heavy failures and severe winter three years ago," said he, "but to a great extent they are recovering from that blow and next spring quite a little money from Scotland will be invested in Texas land and cattle. During my trip to the company's ranches I found the calf crop generally short. The cattle are looking excellent and as the grass and country is in splendid condition the prospects for a good winter were never better. The cattle business in Texas has undergone complete change within a few years and now nearly all of the bovines sold to northern parties are shipped. The old trail exists no longer. The fences in Kansas and Nebraska have proved too formidable a foe for the trail men and the cattle now enjoy a ride to their new quarters."

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Commodore George E. Belknap of the United States navy is at the Palmer house. He is en route, to San Francisco, where he will resume his duties as commander of the Mare Island navy-yard. He comes to Chicago direct from Washington, where he has been undergoing examination for promotion to the grade of rear-admiral. He will be advanced to the vacancy caused by the retirement of Rear-Admiral S. B. Luce. "The naval affairs on the Pacific coast are most favorable," said Commodore Belknap. "The work on the double-turreted monitor Monadnock is being pushed rapidly ahead, the keel for the new cruiser San Francisco has been laid, and the cruiser Charleston is ready for her trial trip." The commodore advocates the opening up of the revenue service to Annapolis graduates who were debarred from entering the navy through the numbers held in their class.

A Preacher Driven Insane.

TORONTO, Ont., Jan. 1.—Church troubles have have driven the Rev. Andrew Thomas of Louisville, Ky., insane. The congregation over which he had control is an Independent Reformed Presbyterian church, not within the jurisdiction of any Canadian presbytery. One day last week he was found wandering aimlessly about. He was locked up in his room. Mr. Thomas's friends have come from Louisville to take him home.

Burned While Getting His Clothes.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 1.—Fire last night destroyed eleven buildings belonging to the Decatur land company. A man named Wood was fatally burned.

THE GREAT "Q" STRIKE

Compliance with Certain Conditions May Bring About a Settlement.

A Fair Prospect that a Losing Fight for Both Sides May Be Brought to an End.

What the Men Ask and What the Officers of the Road Are Willing to Concede.

The conference between the officials of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad and the committee of nine representing the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers will be resumed today, and the interested parties on both sides confidently believe that some definite conclusion will be reached before night. On the result of this conference depends the course to be pursued by the brotherhood toward the Burlington company hereafter. A. R. Cavener and his associates on the committee have full power to settle the strike on the best terms they can obtain and they are anxious to fulfill their mission. They understand that this can be done only by a surrender of certain principles on which the "Q's" engineers made their fight ten months ago. They are prepared to make the surrender, but not unconditionally. That has been the position of the committee ever since it arrived in Chicago and that was the position of the convention that appointed it. Mr. Cavener stated the case clearly to the Burlington officials at the conference Monday and the latter were impressed by the force of his reasoning and the fairness of his demands.

The committee does not ask that the present employes of the company be discharged. It only asks that the striking engineers and firemen be taken back as fast as vacancies occur, and that brotherhood men shall be given the preference at all times when vacancies are to be filled. The engineers argue that the company could accede to this demand without compromising its dignity or receding an inch from the stand it took at the beginning of the strike. But the Burlington people have found it rather difficult to make up their minds to such an agreement. They can not forget that they owe all their troubles and the loss of millions of dollars to the very men who now ask to be given the preference over all others when there are places to be filled. It is not quite clear to them what right these men have to make such a request. However, they have been given an entire day to consider the matter among themselves and they are expected to be ready with an answer today. Thus far the conference has been carried on in a friendly manner. No threats have been made and the committee has not intimated that hostilities will be renewed against the Burlington company if its requests are not granted.

The engineers seem to be confident that the officials of the "Q" will agree to the terms proposed. They insist that the company is having a vast amount of trouble with its engineers and will be only too glad of the opportunity to replace some of them with good, reliable men.

NEBRASKA SOLONS MEET.

The Legislature Convenes and Elects Its Officers. Other State Law-Makers.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 1.—The twenty-first session of the legislature convened at noon today. The republican caucus nominations were elected and both houses adjourned until morning. An attempt was made in the senate to bring about a reduction of expenses in the matter of employes. Gov. Thayer and the state officers will be inaugurated Thursday with imposing ceremonies. Gov. Larrabee of Iowa and staff will be present. On that day a committee from the State Farmers' alliance, headed by ex-Gov. David Butler and J. Burrows will visit the legislature and present an address, demanding the abolition of the state board of transportation, and asking for a revision of the laws governing assessments of property.

DENVER, Col., Jan. 1.—The biennial session of the general assembly convenes tomorrow. The session will be of considerable importance as a United States senator to succeed Senator Tom Bowen is to be chosen. The candidates for this office are ex-Senator Tabor, ex-Congressman Symes, Senator Bowen, ex-Senator Chilcott, the Rev. Dr. David H. Moore, and E. O. Wolcott.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 1.—The members of the legislature have been coming into St. Paul today in large numbers, and nothing is heard at the hotels tonight but talk of the senatorial contest. Washburn's lieutenants are claiming that the great railroader will have sixty-three votes, enough to control in the caucus. On the other hand Sabin's chief, Senator Buckman, says Sabin will get the caucus nomination without a doubt, as he has at least 55 votes pledged to him and will, on later ballots, get the votes cast for Donnelly and others. Some of the Farmers' alliances in the state have passed resolutions protesting against the nomination of Washburn, but most of them favor Donnelly, who is already practically out of the race.

THE LETTER-BOX.

Some Scheming Snobbishness.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES: The Chicago *Herald* probably did not intend to seem snobbish in chronicling what it terms "the greatest social event of the holiday season"—referring to the "Bachelors' and Benedicts' Ball." The latest event of that sort is always the greatest. But that is small offense; what is most objectionable, because most offensive, is the sanction, or confirmation, thoughtlessly given by the press, to the claim of a few to super-selectness, or social and moral superiority. For such arrogance must bolster its arbitrary claim of social leadership with the auxiliary pretention of leadership in morals. This monopolizing the social virtues of a community by a self-appointed organization, is often abetted by newspapers, whose reporters if not excluded entirely are obliged at least to approach in obsequious servility, to beg affectedly reluctant permission to write something nice about them.

The account in the *Herald* of the ball relates how Mr. Hobart C. Taylor and Mr. Reginald De Koven, lamenting the "decline and fall" of the old Dancing Class, had been seized with an inspiration to organize a new club on "an improved basis," that is, of a finer material. Then ensued a brain-destroying discussion as to the limitation of this "most select circle of upper-tendom." All this time Mr. Taylor and Mr. De Koven felt that upon the judicious application of their joint inspiration depended the standard of social tone in Chicago. So it was decided to appoint fourteen gentlemen who should issue credentials to such as were deemed eligible to membership. Even those accredited by the committee to a perch on the pinnacle of Chicago society must undergo the hazard of being black-balled before their confirmation would be final. One of the requisites to eligibility was that the would-be member must be personally known to one-half the members of the committee. Imagine, if you can, the obscurity, the isolation, the utter inconsequentiality of a bachelor, or a benedict, or anybody, or anything, not personally known to these fourteen young gentlemen! Not to know the fourteen, or the half of them, is woful; but not to be known to them is social oblivion. It is stated that any "young lady may be excluded by the committee."

In the *Herald's* account of the ball I read that there is attrition of cuticle on the part of the "outs." Then the abrasion must extend pretty much to the community in general. The committee picked only about one hundred out of about eight hundred thousand. All the good, virtuous, noble young ladies in church societies; all the Christian mothers who bring up their daughters in admiration of good behavior and cultured companionship and in fear of God; all the benedicts who preside over beautiful homes made bright by affectionate intercourse, but who are not ambitious for the social swim; all the bachelors who love books, family life, the esteem of a small circle, but who haven't inherited, married, or otherwise obtained any money — all these have notice that they are not entitled to belong to the selected one hundred or two hundred of upper-tendom. This committee, if it intended the decision of its passed upon everybody that much is in favor of the community but by its process of selection, assortment, and rejection it has signified its limitation to what the *Herald's* report characterizes as the cream de la cream.

Now, individually, I have no grievance, for I never attend society events, and would not attend if the invitation were brought to me on a silver platter. But, as one interested in the general and social welfare of social systems, I am curious to know by what authority a few persons, some superior, some inferior, some cultured, some uncultured, some agreeable, some disagreeable, elect themselves the "best society." These self-important *coteries* in all communities comprise many very nice people. But, outside their own arrogance, are they any better than thousands of others in the community; and, if they are not, why should newspapers thoughtlessly permit their reporters to record and parade them as the selected and assorted best, until the favored ones actually believe that they are the cream and the rest of society only the skimmed milk? A BENEDICT.

United States Indian Service.

JICARILLA AGENCY, N. M., Dec. 27.—*To the Editor:* In THE TIMES of the 19th inst., in replying to a correspondent at Le Roy, Iowa, you say that "Indian agents living in reservations are generally provided with quarters and rations by the government." In this you are certainly mistaken. Section 18, regulations of the Indian department, is as follows:

"An agent or any employe of the Indian service is not entitled to receive from the government any further compensation or allowance, either in substance, materials, fuel, feed for animals, or otherwise than the amount designated as his salary, but when necessary a reasonable allowance or provision may be made for offices and office contingencies."

SEC. 258. "Neither the agent, interpreter, nor any person whose salary is established by law is entitled to rations."

Agents and employes are permitted to purchase from the subsistence supplies at cost, including transportation, such quantity as may be necessary for the support of themselves and families. The amount so purchased must be shown with each set of quarterly accounts verified by the affidavits of the agent and each of the employes, which shall also state that no other supplies have been used.

Quarters are furnished, but in some agencies are quarters in name only. Something over three years' experience in the Indian service gives me the knowledge whereof I speak. B. C.

[THE TIMES did not say that the agents were always supplied with quarters and rations. We know the laws which regulate this, the disbursements, etc., of the Indian agencies, but we also know that quarters are furnished to some agents as "B. C." admits, and that under certain circumstances rations as well. It makes little difference whether the agent draws rations directly from the government or is paid money with which he is "to purchase supplies at cost, including transportation." We answered the question in a practical not in a technical sense. We thank "B. C." for his communication.]

A Poem of Unknown Authorship.

In reply to a letter "To the Editor" asking us to print a poem which our correspondent called "A Similar Case" we republish the following verses which have been sent to us by Mr. J. A. Love of Chicago, to whom we return thanks. Mr. Love clipped "A Similar Case" from a newspaper years ago. The name of the author is not given.

A SIMILAR CASE.

Jack, I hear you've gone and done it,
Yes, I know, most fellows will,
Went and tried it once myself, sir,
Though you see I'm single still.
And you met her — did you tell me?
Down at Newport last July,
And resolved to ask the question
At a soiree? So did I.

I suppose you left the ball room
With its music and its light;
For they say love's flame is brightest
In the darkness of the night.
Well you walked along together,
Overhead the starlit sky,
And I'll bet — old man confess it
You were frightened. So was I.

So you strolled along the terrace,
Saw the summer moonlight pour
All its radiance on the waters
As they rippled on the shore,
Till at length you gathered courage,
When you saw that none were nigh —
Did you draw her close and tell her
That you loved her? So did I.

Well, I needn't ask you further,
And I'm sure I wish you joy;
Think I'll wander down and see you
When you're married — eh, my boy?
When the honeymoon is over
And you've settled down, we'll try —
What? The deuce you say! Rejected,
You rejected? So was I!

ACTA COLUMBIANA.

A Correction.

HYDE PARK, Ill., Dec. 31.—*To the Editor:* In my article which appeared in today's issue of your paper there is a typographical error which changes the entire meaning of a sentence. "For women" should read "few women." As you considered my article worthy of publication, and as the error made me say just the opposite of what I intended to say, I take the liberty of requesting a correction. Respectfully, L. W.

L. P. Morton.

LUSHTON, Neb., Dec. 29.—*To the Editor:* Is Vice-President-elect Levi P. Morton officially or otherwise connected with any railroad; if so, what roads and to what extent? Please answer in WEEKLY TIMES and oblige a resident of Nebraska. I. J. F.

[He is not.]

STABBED BY A BROTHER VETERAN.

Two Old Soldiers Quarrel While Intoxicated and One Is Killed.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 1.—William S. Ruder, an inmate of the National Home for Veterans near this city, was stabbed and killed this afternoon by Louis Schmidt, another inmate. The two men were out on leave and met in a saloon. When returning to the home both were intoxicated. A quarrel ensued in which Schmidt applied an offensive epithet to Ruder. The latter attacked him and Schmidt ran away, but Ruder followed and renewed the attack. Schmidt drew a pocket-knife with a blade three or four inches long and stabbed Ruder in the groin. The wounded man died in a short time. Schmidt went to the home, where he was arrested. Schmidt says Ruder attacked him, and not until Ruder had him by the neck did he use his knife. Ruder was a member of the Seventh New York cavalry. He was at the Leavenworth branch for a time and came to Milwaukee last May. Schmidt was a member of the Missouri infantry. He has been at the home five years, is 65 years old, and has a wife and four children in St. Louis.

FEARFUL FALL OF A FIREMAN.

A Milwaukee Pipeman Steps Through a Hatchway and Is Seriously Injured.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 1.—At a fire at Ricker & McCullough's soap-factory late last night Mike Dunn, a pipeman, fell through a hatchway in the third story to the basement. His company was on the third floor with a stream. In the smoke and darkness Dunn stepped through the hatchway. His absence was attributable to a desire for fresh air. Dunn managed to crawl from the place to which he fell to the office and lay there in a pool of water until he was found by the firemen when they entered to sweep out the water. He was taken to the Emergency hospital. A compound fracture of the arm and several severe cuts on the head were the outward indications of injury. The fire, which at first threatened serious consequences, was extinguished with little loss.

Unfavorable Weather for Winter Wheat.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 1.—During last month the weather was unfavorable in the winter wheat section, owing to the small amount of rain and snow. At the close of the year the entire winter wheat section was in need of moisture, and bare, except in northern Iowa, where the ground was covered with six inches of snow. From six to twelve inches of snow was reported on the ground in Wisconsin and northern Michigan, and from one to two inches in Minnesota and Dakota.

Mrs. Hicks Lord has opened a crusade against receptions. She herself will substitute dinners, at which no one is likely to complain.

LEHNEN'S WINDSOR THEATER.
N. Clark and Division Sts.
TODAY AT 2: TONIGHT AT 8.
CHAS. L. ANDREWS'S
MICHAEL STROGOFF.
Sunday, Jan. 6—STREETS OF NEW YORK.

PEOPLE'S—State st., near Harrison.
Prices 15c, 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, $1.
Matinee at 2. Night at 8.
Greatest, Grandest, Most Brilliant of All
SPARKLING NIGHT OWLS CO.
Handsomest Women in the World in Burlesque.
DRUMMERS IN PARADISE
Crowded Houses. Seeing Is Believing.

EDEN MUSEE—Wabash and Jackson.
OPEN 10 A. M. TO 10:30 P. M.
Admission 50c.
HUNGARIAN ORCHESTRA.
[illegible]

THE BON-TON THEATER.
[illegible]
MATINEE TODAY — HARRY & EMMA — TONIGHT AT
[illegible]

STATEMENT OF THE
MUTUAL FIRE INS. C[O.]
OF CHICAGO, ILL.,
At Close of Business December 31, 1[888.]

ASSETS.

Cash in bank and office	$ 21,7[…]
Deposit notes subject to call	150,6[…]
Bonds and mortgages	89,4[…]
Collateral loans	10,0[…]
National Bank stock	1,6[…]
Cash in hands of agents and premiums in course of collection	15,4[…]
Accrued interest	1,0[…]
Total	$590,0[…]

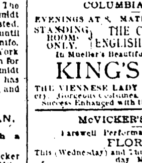
LIABILITIES.

Total liabilities, including reserve for reinsurance	$ 76,5[…]
Surplus to policy-holders	$513,5[…]
Total losses paid in six years	$322,[…]

WM. E. SMITH, Sec[retary.]
218 La Salle st.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.
Matinee Saturday Only. This Week Only.
RICE'S BEAUTIFUL
EVANGELINE.
GORGEOUS COSTUMES. Beautiful Mu[sic]. Pretty Gir[ls]. Magnificent Sce[nery].

GRAND OPERA HOUSE—Extra
Commencing Monday, January 7.
RUDOLPH ARON[SON'S]
Comic Opera [Co.]
FROM THE CAS[INO,] New York.
PRESENTING THE GREATEST OF ALL OPERA SUCCESSES,
ERMINIE
With an Immense Cast, Including
PAULINE HALL, MARIE JANSEN, JENNIE WEATHERSBY, GEORGIE DENNIS, ANNA O'KEEFE, KATE CARL,
FRANCIS WILSO[N], CHARLES PLUN[KETT], MAX FREEMAN, JOHN E. BRAND, HARRY MACDO[NOUGH], A. W. MAFLIN,
And the Entire Matchless Organization.
SALE OF SEATS BEGINS TOMORROW, THURSDAY.
JOSEPH BROOKS ... General
MAX FREEMAN ... Stage
A. de NOVELLIS ... Musical

BAKER'S THE[ATER.]
Wabash av. at [...]
T. B. BAKER ...
ONE WEEK
TONIGHT, Ja[n.]
MILTON AND DOLLIE
NOBLES

IN MILTON NOBLES'S LATEST AND GR[EATEST] PLAY, CALLED
FROM SIRE TO SO[N]
Saturday Night Only Performance of
"THE PHŒNI[X]"
REGULAR MATINEE SATURDA[Y].
Seats on Sale at Lyon & Healy's and Box [Office].

CHICAGO OPERA-HOUSE—Fire[proof]
DAVID HENDERSON ... Ma[nager]
Last Four Nights of Kiralfy's Great Hit.
MATINEE TODA[Y]
Matinee Prices 25c to [...]
BOLOSSY KIRAL[FY'S]
Water Qu[een]
The Great Fairy Spectacle
50c
JAN. 7—CRYSTAL SLIPPER. Seat-s[ale] gins Monday.

COLUMBIA THEATER.
EVENINGS AT 8. MATINEE SATURD[AY].
STANDING ROOM ONLY.
THE CONREID ENGLISH OPERA CO.
In Mueller's Beautiful Romantic Oper[a]
KING'S FOO[L]
THE VIENNESE LADY FENCERS. Sup[erb Scen]ery. Gorgeous Costumes. A Harmonious Success Enhanced with the Second Week.

McVICKER'S THEATER.
Farewell Performances. Mr. and [Mrs.]
FLORENCE.
This (Wednesday) and Thursday Evenings [and Satur]day Matinee.
HEART OF HEARTS.
Mr. Florence in Two Characters.
Mrs. Florence as Wilhelmina.
Friday Evening Our Governor. Saturday
The Mighty Dollar—Mr. Florence as Hon. [...] Slote, Mrs. Florence as Mrs. Gen. Gilflory.
Next Monday—A Dark Secret.

THE HAYMARKET—Will J. D[avis]
W. Madison and Halsted Sts.
1889
Did You ever know a more [...]
NEW YEAR'S DA[Y]
This will be your year [...]
in with
ZIG ZAG
NEXT SUNDAY—HARDIE AND VON [LEER].

HOOLEY'S—Tonight.
Matinee Today at 2. Tonight at [8].
Matinees Wednesday and Saturday.
PRICES: 25c to $1.00.
Engagement of Mr.
SOTHERN
In His New Come[dy]
LORD CHUM[LEY]
By the Author of "The [...]"

H. R. JACOBS'S ACADEMY.
Halsted st., near Madison.
The Only House Playing First-Class Att[ractions at] Popular Prices.
SHADOWS OF A GREAT [CITY]
Reserved Seats 20c, 30c, and 50c—No [...]
Week of Jan. 7—T. J. Farron, "Help."

KOHL & MIDDLETON'S
SOUTH-SIDE DIME MUSEUM.
EXPANSIONIST. HALF MAN. [...]
Theater No. 1—[...]
Theater No. 2—[...]

KOHL & MIDDLETON'S
BIG WEST-SIDE MUSEUM.
BLACK MAN TURNING WHITE.
[illegible]

NEW OLYMPIC THEATER.
Prices 10c, 20c, 30c.
[illegible]
A New Show for the New Year.

CRITERION THEATER.
[illegible]

EPSTEAN'S NEW DIME MU[SEUM]
BARNUM'S GENUINE A[...]
TEXAS GIANTS. TWO NEW STAGE[S]

PARK THEATER—[illegible]
[illegible]