

Alderman Grant's Speech.

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ward do not. That comes very near being a personal insult to some of the people of ward four and perhaps they will thank him for casting that slur on them. The citizens of that ward are not idiots, nor are they wanting in public spirit; but they don't care to be taxed for the benefit of some one else, for things they do not need and do not want.

This council, he said, did not need the advice of the Citizen's Committee. Perhaps all the aldermen do not feel themselves so wise as Mr. Grant. There have been mayors and aldermen in this city of Highland Park who welcomed the advice and suggestions of this same Citizen's Association; but that was before the present race intellectual and political prodigies appeared on the scene.

A QUESTION OF WATER.

Mr. Grant also said the question of water was the issue in his ward last spring. We never heard of that before. A large per cent of his support consisted of transient voters now gone, who cared vastly more for beer than for water; in fact about all we heard of them last spring was beer. Mr. Grant's speech would almost lead one to suppose he and his colleague laid awake nights to devise ways and means to get this filter bed in, and that nearly every voter in the fourth ward was very anxious for it. Perhaps he thinks so, but we don't believe it. In fact a well informed, candid, honest tax payer and real estate owner in the fourth ward told us this week, as the result of his personal inquiry that the water takers and voters over there do not want it. They don't want to be taxed \$12,000 to \$20,000 for a filter-bed besides yearly cost of maintenance and operation on top of a \$25,000 public school house and then \$30,000 to 40,000 for a new High school building, besides all the city, county and state taxes. Who blames them? The voters of ward four have some sense and public spirit, whatever Mr. Grant may say, and they will show it when they get a chance.

Miss Grace Elvey has been spending a few days in Chicago, the guest of Miss Tappan.

The Ossoli.

The eighth regular meeting of the Ossoli was held at the club rooms on Thursday, Jan. 25th. The audience again had the pleasure of hearing Miss Bate of Chicago, who sang for them last winter, render three numbers, "When the World is fair," "My true love gave me a red, red rose," "And I," with a spirit and style that did credit to the training of her teacher, Miss Wycoff, who played her accompaniments.

The subject for the afternoon was: "Reforms, moral, social and civic," by Mrs. Pfanstiehl, and she had perfect control of her subject.

Mrs. Pfanstiehl said she would like to begin with the 15th century and Savonarola, that brave reformer who was ready not only to do battle for his convictions, but to die in their defense; of Luther, who was the hero of the 16th century reformation; of brave John Howard, who in 1773 began his prison reforms in England; of Benjamin Franklin, who founded the first American anti slavery society in 1775; of Robert Raikes, who in 1780 inaugurated the Sabbath-school movement; of Dr. Benj. Rush who in 1785 began the modern temperance crusade; of 1833 the year of the reform bill in Great Britain. In the middle of our century, emancipation swept the Christian world free of slavery. She said she would like to read every one of the 167 current reform bills now before congress, from the establishment by our government of a court of arbitration securing concurrent action of leading nations for the settlement of international disputes, up to the discontinuance of the hideous and cruel practice of docking horses' tails. It is true that a growing interest in humanity is being awakened and this in itself is a long step toward reform.

The essayist then took up in order first—municipal and state reform. "It is true that so long as the party idea dominated and the chief endeavor is to get our men in and the other men out, every election must be a disappointment. The way cities have been changing back and forth from state control to house rule and from

council to mayor reminds one of the lover in Biglow papers.

"He stood a while on one foot fast,
Then stood a spell on 'tother,
But on which foot he felt the most
I couldn't a told—you nother."

Second: Tenement reform; a strong plea was made for the betterment of the houses of the poor. Startling statistics and facts were given showing the necessity as well as the opportunity for reform along these lines.

Third: The labor reform; What we need in America today is leaders—men of influence and power who are willing to spend and be spent for the uplifting of humanity. We need a Gladstone, a Wilberforce, an Earl of Shaftsbury."

Fourth: prison, divorce and temperance reforms were all discussed briefly and summed up with this statement: "and last of all and infinitely higher than all, is this, "The soul of reformation is the reformation of the soul."

After the paper, Mrs. Smoot told of the latest good work being done by the Consumer's League—viz: the adoption of the white label; this label is found on all goods made by factories which conform to the factory laws. In New York and Boston all the largest firms have been compelled to adopt the white label and the Chicago branch of the league hope that the buyers who refuse to take goods that do not have the white label will become so numerous that in self-defense the merchants will use it. A spirited discussion followed and this most interesting meeting closed with a cup of tea with Mrs. C. G. Phillips and Miss Turnley, the hostesses for the afternoon.

Mrs. Merryman of West Deerfield, a sister of Mrs. Patrick Sheahan, died last Saturday, aged 63 years. The funeral was held Tuesday in St. Mary's church in this city, and the interment in Waukegan. She was the mother of a large family, who rise up and call her blessed.

Mrs. R. G. Evans has been confined to her bed with an attack of nervous prostration, but her friends hope she will soon be about again.