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A Courier of North Shore Intelligence.  
 Published every Friday morning at Highland Park, Ill., and Winnetka, Ill., by the  
**Sheridan Road Publishing Co.**  
 H. F. EVANS, Business Manager.  
 OFFICES:  
 News-Letter Building, 271 Central Avenue, Highland Park.  
 Telephone No. 92, Highland Park.  
 Entered at the Post-Office at Highland Park as second-class matter.  
 Advertising rates made known on application at Highland Park office.  
**TERMS \$1.50 PER YEAR.**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1900.

**Notice.**  
 With this issue, Herbert F. Evans, business manager, closes his term of service with the SHERIDAN ROAD NEWS-LETTER. Announcement of his successor will be made next week.

**The Government and the Governed.**  
 Not long ago a man named Bullock in London, was brought into court and pleaded guilty to the charge of an attempt at suicide. A charge of embezzlement had been made against him. It proved unfounded and was withdrawn. The man at the time was ill, and naturally of a sensitive disposition, and when the policeman sent to arrest him he shot himself in the head. He recovered, however, but with the loss of an eye. The plea was made by his counsel for insanity on the ground that the man was temporarily insane. The answer of the stern judge was "the prisoner has brought all the trouble on himself," and he sentenced him to three months of hard labor.

Government is an institution established for the benefit of the people, and all agents of government are supposed to act in accordance with that theory. It seems to be very common, however, both for legislative and executive officers to assume the reverse, namely, that the people are created for the benefit of the government, and sometimes it would almost seem that the same might be said of our judicial officers.

We have heard of another case recently in which a man was kept in jail three months waiting trial on the charge of attempting suicide by cutting his own throat.  
 The law which punishes those who attempt to commit suicide may be correct theoretically, and may have its value, but sometimes it is literally interpreted and rigidly enforced, it works detriment rather than advantage.

The policy of government should be to enable every man to make himself of the most value possible to the state. Whereas, it has come to be a common fact that the work of protecting the weak and improving the conditions of the provident, has to be done largely by private philanthropic men and women. This might not seem so hard and trying if it were not a fact that at the same time the state is encouraging institutions such as the legalizing of a liquor traffic, whereby the burden placed upon private philanthropists is greatly increased.

**A Septic Tank.**  
 Just how the thing is built with its scientific methods of structure and operation we are not familiar, any more than we are with the mechanism of an electric car, still we know the car will get there. And as that is the important thing to know we are satisfied. So of the septic tank, it will do the work of destroying all or nearly all the bacteria or dangerous disease germs in the sewage which runs through it, besides removing most of the floating matter, so that the sewage can be discharged into the lake with very much less danger and harm than comes from a brook or river running into the lake.  
 The cost of such a tank for sewer "B" would not be large, the printers made us say last week \$6,000; it should have been \$1,500. It would cost from \$5,000 to \$8,000 to build septic tanks for all our sewers.

Then at any time if we or the state authorities are not satisfied and want something more complete in its work of removing disease germs and all other matter from the sewage, what are known as cinder beds can be built on as annexes to the septic tanks, but we don't need them now.  
 There is no sickness or disease and has not been any that came from the use of lake water. But we don't want to wait till more or less sickness breaks out, with a painful list of deaths. Our business is to protect the city against all that. Hence we should begin at an early date the construction of a septic tank at sewer "B" down by the Fletcher pier and pumping station because that sewer discharges into the lake so near the intake pipe.

**Legalized Wrong.**  
 Since the Philippines have come under control of the United States government, the legalized liquor traffic has so greatly increased that many of the natives flee in terror from the approach of such civilization.

It is very well for the United States to talk about its philanthropy in civilizing and christianizing such quarters of the globe as the Philippine Islands.

Not long ago an inhabitant of one of the so-called heathen countries visiting this land of civilization and christianity, made in a public meeting, this remark: "You sent us missionaries to instruct us in christianity and to civilize us. We thank you. But in the same vessel which brings the missionary you sent the intoxicating poison which destroys our people and renders them worse than they were. We don't thank you."

Our American churches realize and admit the existence of the great and blighting curse of a legalized liquor traffic. A traffic that tramples upon the Christian Sabbath, corrupts our youth, pollutes our politics, and neutralizes the blessings of our public school system. But they say, "what can we do," and then proceed to support by their ballot the old parties, both of which give to the liquor traffic a legal existence in the form of tax, and license laws, and thereby show their unwillingness to offend the saloon vote.

Down with the legalized liquor traffic. "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

**About China.**  
 For the benefit of our readers who are interested in China's political situation as well as her commercial condition and prospects, let us say "The Break-Up of China" by Charles Beresford is far, and away the best book we have seen. A rear admiral of the British navy he was sent to China as the special commissioner of the English board of trade to study and report on the conditions existing in that country, and to examine the tendencies of its politics, as all these affect British trade in that empire. The result is a book over 450 pages, with two good maps of the country giving all the facts in detail. His position was such that he was permitted to see and examine all the factories, business marts, armies, navies, arsenals, workshops, etc., of the general government and the several provinces. In a word he saw everything and learned everything which he wished to see or know. Of course it is not all told in this book, but the book tells all we need to know. It lets daylight in large quantities into China at such points and on such subjects as we want information.

One hundred and twenty-three years ago last week, Thursday, Aug. 16, the famous battle of Bennington, Vermont, was. The hero of that engagement was Gen. John Stark of New Hampshire, and just before engaging the British in action he said to his soldiers, pointing to the English troops: "There, boys, are the red coats; they are ours, or tonight Mollie Stark (his wife) sleeps a widow." The centennial was celebrated with great pomp and enthusiasm in 1877, and nearly all the girls born that year in old Bennington county were named "Mollie Stark." That was how our teacher of grade five received her name, heroic and historic also.

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