

# NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

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Published Every Saturday at Highland Park, Ill.

Sheridan Road Publishing Co.

Entered at the Post Office, Highland Park, Illinois as second class matter

Subscription \$1.50 a Year 5c per Copy

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1907

## THE FINANCIAL SCARE.

That there has been uneasiness in the commercial world arising from the collapse of certain large concerns at Wall street everybody knows.

Just why everybody should take alarm at the downfall of one or two great gambling houses it is not easy to say unless it be that money is an extremely sensitive article.

All sorts of fears have been expressed about this matter, and perhaps it is not without reason that they should be, so long as money is itself a commodity for sale and speculation rather than a coupon of exchange and a measure of values.

The real stability of the country is to be found in its productiveness. And whether we view this from the standpoint of nature or of human service there is surely no need to fear. Crops are generally good—foodstuffs are in abundance. This is an off-year for fruit, it is true, but all other provisions are abundant.

One good thing may occur, if indeed it has not already begun, as a result of the recent shake-up, viz.: that prices will settle down to something like a normal relation to wages and values and the common people may have occasion to rejoice.

## A NATIONAL GATHERING.

### Battle Creek, Michigan, is the Scene of an Important Event.

Of all subjects of reform in society the most far-reaching in its sweep and universal in importance is that which deals with the social and moral relations of the sexes. Not even the great liquor question touches all mankind so closely and vitally as this. It involves every consideration of physical and moral health and affects the whole social and political welfare of the individual and the nation.

Not only are the divorce and marriage questions directly involved but the whole being of the human race. The very physical life is involved and the possibilities of a strong and noble race are absolutely dependent upon right relations of man and woman.

The white slave trade, the terrible scourge of the social evil, so-called,—the awful loss of life's highest meanings—the dreaded physical ravages—all these are but fruits of a deeper and far more insidious moral tone which prevails in the social life of the people.

The annual conference of the National

Purity Federation, which is now in session, is therefore vastly more than the passing incident or a mere discussion of principles.

The conference is held at Battle Creek, Mich., the Federation having accepted the invitation of that city at its meeting in Chicago last year.

It will seem to many that the conference should have been held in a more central city within readier access to the great main railways of our country. But it may be hoped that the nation's higher ideals will be quickened and that the organized forces of evil which sustain the traffic in vice and the horrible white slave trade will receive a substantial check.

The value of this movement depends greatly upon the wise and judicious advocacy of the difficult subjects involved.

Mr. Burgess, editor of the News Letter, expects to attend some of the sessions of this conference. He is a delegate from the Chicago Purity Alliance and is also a member of the Advisory Board of the National Federation.

## The Shakespeare Lecture Course—

The second of the course by the Rev. Wm. Burgess was given in the Library lecture room on Friday evening, Oct. 25. The attendance was not encouraging in point of numbers, but the audience was highly appreciative.

The subject of the lecture was "The Merchant of Venice," which was treated first, as from the standpoint of its history and moral purpose, and, second, as character sketches of the three principal characters. Shylock was shorn of much of the offensive caricature of the Jew so common in discussing this play, and the faults as well as the virtues of the merchant were presented in clear light.

Portia was called the glory of the play, and was shown to be a prophecy of the twentieth century woman. These character-analyses were an especially interesting feature of the lecture, which called forth many expressions of pleasure from the audience.

The next lecture will be on "Macbeth," on Nov. 15, instead of Nov. 8, as previously announced.

## HALLOWEEN.

"This is the night o' Halloween,  
When a' the witchie might be seen;  
Some o' them black, some o' them green,  
Some o' them like a turkey bean."

Thus Robert Burns sang into popular celebration the famous night of the witches.

It is significant of the common superstitions which seem to cling to humanity that this weird custom has become so deeply rooted that it is now recognized and observed half over the world.

So far from any limitations of it to the little hardy country of the heather, or to Scotch people the world over, it is become an established anniversary in many places where the name of Bobby Burns is never thought of in its connection.

No one seems to know when Hallow-

een was first introduced into the United States, but we all know it is here and that big cities, little villages and country farm districts all follow the weird "Tam o' Shanter" night.

**New York City Has Adopted It** as a regular festive occasion. Funds are raised by popular subscription for a civic carnival, which is held on the last day and night of October. The city gives itself unreservedly to the celebration of the festival, and the ceremonies are quite elaborate. One of the most spectacular features of the show is the crowning of Queen Titania on the broad marble steps of the capitol. The mimic queen is attended by an imposing retinue of 500 costumed servitors, and after the coronation she is received by the mayor and other municipal authorities in the city hall, and the keys of the city are presented to her, to be used in a symbolic unlocking of the gates.

**Philadelphia is "Clean Gone Daft,"** as the Scotch would say, over the follies of Halloween. The traditions of All-hallow eve are purely secular in Philadelphia, wholly divested of any theological significance. Mummery and mimicry reign absolute and the staid old city is robed in carnival attire. To the observant spectator the scene on the streets is a kaleidoscope of brilliancy and color, rivaling in effect the city's famous New Year's celebration. Many of the clubs turn out in all the magnificence of their elegant regalia. Small bands of Indians and cowboys—to whom the event is nothing but "Holler eve"—armed with inflated bladders and rag stuffed stockings, wage many and fierce battles with other black faced and red faced clans, all rallying to the slogan of "Yea! Yea! Yea!"

Goblins hobnob with princes; clowns link arms with stately colonial dames. There are hoboos, Indians and black faced dandies and their sweethearts. No type of humanity appears to be missing, from the Eskimo of the north to the Japanese of the orient, in this notable assembly of the grotesque. All of the chief thoroughfares are crowded with picturesque, noisy, cheerful and gay groups until midnight has tolled from the city towers and quiet descends as the last laughing masker vanishes in the distance.

The license for roystering and noisy fun which this occasion gives may partly account for its popularity. The people like once in a while to throw off all staid and steady habits, run wild and act like lunatics at a carnival.

## Fortune Telling on Love Affairs.

Another feature which accounts for it, in part, is the love of young people and old ones, too, for that matter, to consult witches, fortune tellers and other mystic beings as to their fortune. A million lovers in the United States thus consulted the weird unknown as to their fortunes in love affairs.

Many of the amusing customs which have obtained a foothold in America were brought from Ireland. Such is that of assembling in parties, all provided with grotesque disguises, and proceeding from house to house in quest of money or refreshments. In Ireland

also the custom of suspending apples was first observed, as was bobbing for them in tubs of water.

We can only say that in so far as this quaint custom contributes to healthy fun and harmless amusement we wish it a long life. But, like the excesses of our national birthday, it may become necessary to curb the steed which runs too wild.

## Special Assessment Notice No. 136.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all persons interested that the City Council of the City of Highland Park, County of Lake and State of Illinois, having ordered that a sewer be constructed in the ravine running north-easterly through blocks 20 and 29, in said City of Highland Park; also in Linden avenue from said ravine northerly to a point in said avenue opposite the north line of lot 4 in block 20, in said City of Highland Park, with manholes and house junctions, the ordinance for the same being on file in the office of the City Clerk of said City, and having applied to the County Court of Lake county for an assessment of the costs of said improvement according to benefits, and an assessment thereof having been made and returned to said court, the final hearing thereon will be had on the 18th day of November, A. D. 1907, or as soon thereafter as the business of the court will permit.

Said assessment is payable in seven (7) installments with interest at the rate of five (5) per centum per annum, on all installments from and after date of first voucher. All persons desiring may file objections in said court before said day, and may appear on the hearing and make their defense.

CHARLES L. FINNEY,

Officer appointed to make said assessment.  
Dated at Highland Park, Illinois,  
November 1, A. D. 1907.

## Special Assessment Notice No. 137.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all persons interested that the City Council of the City of Highland Park, County of Lake and State of Illinois, having ordered that a connected system of sewers be constructed in Glencoe avenue, Lincoln place and Lincoln avenue in said City of Highland Park, together with manholes, one flushing connection and house junctions, the ordinance for the same being on file in the office of the City Clerk of said City, and having applied to the county court of Lake county for an assessment of the costs of said improvement according to benefits, and an assessment thereof having been made and returned to said court, the final hearing thereon will be had on the 18th day of November, A. D. 1907, or as soon thereafter as the business of the court will permit.

Said assessment is payable in ten (10) installments with interest at the rate of five (5) per centum per annum, on all installments from and after date of first voucher. All persons desiring may file objections in said court before said day, and may appear on the hearing and make their defense.

CHARLES L. FINNEY,

Officer appointed to make said assessment.  
Dated at Highland Park, Illinois,  
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