

North Shore News-Letter.

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EDITORIALS

SPREADING FOUL WEEDS.

We do not know who owns the lot S. W. corner of First street and W. Laurel avenue therefore we trust we shall not give offence by calling attention to the condition of the lot. Its offensive appearance is not our principle reason in speaking of it. It is overgrown with that offensive dockweed which is now just ripening its seeds. Such is the character of the seed pod that dogs and other animals carry them away and scatter them on lots which the owners try to keep clean and clear of foul weeds.

But that is not the worst result. A neglected lot is always a bad educator. When the owner of a vacant lot keeps it tidy and neat his neighbor goes and does likewise. Just as when one man rebuilds his house or repaints or in any way materially improves it, his neighbor does the same. We would also call attention to the opposite lot, N. W. corner of same streets.

In marked distinction from the above named lots is the property S. E. corner of St. Johns and E. Laurel. This lot has all summer appeared like a well kept lawn. It has not only added to the attractiveness of the city but its own value has been enhanced.

JOHN BROWN THE UN-FORGOTTEN.

It is curious how the echoes of our great struggle for national life fifty years ago persistently come back to remind us of things all would like to forget. "Bleeding Kansas" still appeals to memory as the first battle ground of the army conflict then on the road and only a few years away. And Harpers Ferry is another milestone on that road, midway between. Osawatimie has become consecrated ground; and the man who there suffered outrage and the slaughter of his kindred rises in the long retrospective as a heroic historic figure. The foremost citizen of the Republic today repairs to that sacred precinct to formulate from a public rostrum the wrongs which now oppress the American people under the rule of the new Aristocracy of Mammon.

It is curious, too, how time avenges wrongs and reconstructs public reputations. A little less than forty-nine years ago John Brown perished on the gallows set up by Wise in an old Virginia town not far from the Pennsylvania border named after a brother of George Washington: suffering an ignominious death which much more than half the country at that time thought he richly deserved. Today the kindlier light of 50 years sheds a halo around the gray head of that victim of partisan and provincial fury; and a monument, rather than a gibbet, is now thought to be the fitting crown of what is now seen to be his martyr-

dom. Brooding over his own wrongs and the wrongs of a subject race, which he felt to be closely related to his own, Brown engaged in an enterprise which any judgement but that of a mad-man whatever might have been thought of the justice of it or the righteousness of the motive inspiring it, must have pronounced utterly wild and impracticable. There never was any considerable element of revolt among the American slaves. If there had been, it was impossible to organize it. Brown's scheme was utterly Quixotic. A madhouse, rather than a gibbet, would have been a suitable disposition to make of the old fanatic. But Wise, then Governor of the Commonwealth wherein the national curse had been first planted, swelling in the assumption of an authority he did not possess, took custody of Brown, and had the old mad-man arraigned, tried and executed for "treason" an offense which could be committed only against the sovereignty of the United States and punished by their authority.

Wise and the Institution he put himself forward to champion have alike, gone the way of all the earth-to oblivion. Brown, who gave his life heroically as an offering for what his conscience told him was a righteous cause and with perverted judgement undertook vi et armis, the liberation of the slave, goes marching on to immortal fame.

THE UNIVERSAL SWING

In seeking some philosophic reason for the craze which has taken possession of people all over the civilized parts of the earth to be rushing through the air upon wheels along the surface or with artificial wings above it the writer has been led into some reflections regarding the nature of motion in general.

We are accustomed to regard matter as existing in two states, in motion or at rest. Yet we know that no ponderable body is ever in a state of absolute repose, in its relation to the cosmic world. The earth beneath our feet (in absence of seismic tremor) we regard as fixed and firm. Yet the earth has many motions; three of which, at least, are continuous. One is around its axis, at rate of a thousand miles an hour at the surface; another is around the sun, on an orbit having a diameter of somewhere about one hundred and ninety million miles; a third, with the sun and our planetary system, is around some distant center, so remote and on an orbit so inconceivably extended that astronomical knowledge touching it has not yet got much beyond conjecture. An eminent European astronomer claims he has discovered that his center is Alcyone, the brightest star of the Pleiades; and in its swing around this remote center of our gravity, it is believed this solar system is moving at a velocity calculated

at 422,000 miles a day.

It is a fair deduction that the thousands of other suns, visible to the unassisted eye in any clear night sky, beside the inconceivable number beyond reach of our vision, are moving each with its attendant planetary train, around their centers of gravity somewhere in illimitable space all impelled by the same energy and controlled by the same law as those governing our own solar system.

Again, in cosmical motion there is no such thing as an absolute right line. That is to say, that no cosmical body free in space moved on a straight line. Such motion is impossible. The universe could not have been evolved and could not be maintained if it had been if such motion were possible in inter-stellar space. One body sun or planet moving through space on such a line would wreck all creation. Doubtless the destruction of one such body would destroy the universal equilibrium, with consequences we cannot conceive described by Addison as "The wreck of matter and the crush of worlds."

The circular or orbital motion in the cosmos results in corresponding movements of life on the planetary surfaces. The seasons, and all their attendant growth incident, follow the planetary periodicity and succession. In both the vegetable and animal kingdoms on the earth, nature moves in circles or recurrences. All forms of life obey this general law. There is everywhere a limit, as there is limit and restraint of motion in space. More than that all the sublunary world, from greatest to minutest form, builds to pattern, brings forth "after its kind."

It is a well-founded inference that there is similitude in all celestial bodies, because similar laws will everywhere produce similar results. This earth in the course of its evolution, for a period which clearly had a beginning and as surely will have an end, being fit for the habitation of intelligent beings, we are justified in believing that millions of other planets, in the course of whose growth and decay like conditions exist, are likewise the home of sentient life.

Thus, as well as we can apprehend the phenomena of universal nature, all things great and small are moved by the energy which natural philosophy denominates as "force" one of the indestructible elements; and the motion of matter produced by it is everywhere controlled by laws equally potent, which at once conserve the material universe and evolve all the forms of life which can exist in it.

If we try to go back of this and ask what is the infinite intelligence and the omnipotent power which produced all this and maintains it, assuming there ever was a beginning and can ever be an end the veil is drawn and we can but recognize that there is no answer comprehensible to the finite mind.

NEW POLITICAL METHODS.

September first the initiative and referendum bill passed the upper house of the Colorado legislature after having previously passed the lower house.

Right or wrong, wise or otherwise, the new methods in politics are steadily spreading. It therefore becomes every good, honest, and intelligent citizen, whether voter or not, to continually wear his thinking cap. We are all in-

dividually and collectively responsible for our laws federal, state, and municipal. We may to some extent plead error of judgement for we are all fallible; but we cannot plead ignorance for we have no right to be ignorant. The facilities for knowing what laws are being passed, and when passed to what extent they are being enforced, are innumerable. If we the people were half as much interested in the public welfare as we are in our own private interests there would be far less bad laws enacted and good laws would be infinitely better enforced. Furthermore it would result in enhancing the welfare of all.

WOMEN A FACTOR IN NEW YORK.

Municipal League Gets Things Accomplished as Result of Efforts.

In its thirteenth year, the Woman's Municipal League, an affiliated member of the National Municipal League, demonstrates what a factor a woman's organization can be in municipal affairs. Its membership is 1,500 and its work, carried on through district organizations, covers all of Greater New York.

As originally formed by Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, in 1897, "the promoting among women of an intelligent interest in municipal affairs" and the giving of aid to the movement to obtain good government for the metropolis. It has accomplished much, but its record will be made by its further work.

In evidence of the things accomplished or in process of accomplishment are quoted from a recent report:

Campaign for pure milk, including rigid inspection. The League was one of the first civic organizations to appreciate the need of this.

Encouragement of men in the street-cleaning service by the offering of medals and money prizes.

Revival of the Waring Juvenile Citizens' Leagues, formed in the public schools to promote interest in civic affairs.

Erection of twenty free ice-water fountains in congested portions of the city.

A campaign of education among housekeepers with a view to improving sanitary conditions.

An investigation of moving-picture shows and cheap amusement places, resulting in the establishment of a censorship.

Financial aid and committee services for the investigation of summer amusements of young girls not reached by the settlements and churches.

Establishment and maintenance of play grounds for children of the congested districts.

A most important legislative work of the League was its work for the employment agency bill, a measure designed to stop immoral traffic by means of bogus employment agencies, providing for the licensing of agencies and a supervision of them. This law was copied by Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

These are the officers of the League: President, Mrs. Edward Ringwood Hewitt; Vice-president Mrs. Thomas R. French; Sec. Miss M. Borena Townsend, recording secretary, Mrs. Edward E. Loomis and treasurer, Miss K. S. Day.

HUGHES RENTS CAPITAL HOME

Justice Lurton, Also Supreme Court Member, Finds Residence in Washington.

Washington, Aug. 18.—Two new members of the supreme court of the United States who have been house-hunting in Washington have found homes after long search. Associate Justice Hughes has leased a residence at Twenty-fourth street and Massachusetts avenue, Northwest, and Associate Justice Lurton has leased that at 17th Street, Northwest.



The Old, Old Story

Is most effective when told personally with the environments in keeping. But if it must be written be careful about the writing paper you employ. A love letter written on "any old kind" of paper would indicate a lack of sincerity or else woeful carelessness on the part of the writer.

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