

The Politician.

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From the New York Daily Times.
THE UNDERSTRATA OF NEW YORK.

If any one has watched the testimony in the trial of Baker, now going on, he will be most of all surprised at the revelations it makes of city life below the surface. We had all known, of course, that there were sharpers and rowdies, and criminal characters among us; still few had realized the existence of such organized and professional bands of desperadoes. But they came one after another to the witness-stand, or they speak of companions, and business, and scenes in such a way as to show that down in the depths of society there is a class, where to cheat, to gamble, to bully, to fight, is as much a regular profession as in the upper strata, to cure, or to do honest labor. What are they—these men—that for a little while come forth from their haunts and dens, and stand up in full day before New York? How do they live? What do they do to earn their genteel clothes, their continual pleasures, and their host of followers? What is our lower class made of?

These men are like the athletes, and prize-fighters, and freed slaves who composed the lowest population of Rome in classic days, whose characters, with their deep lines of villainy, yet stand out under the strong torch of Cicero's pen. He warned his countrymen of them then as moralists do of these now. And the censors who lived amid a corrupt race, only ceased to warn when these desperadoes had overturned society and seized the government itself. These men in New York are the brawlers, fighters, and "pugilists"—for we are told by one witness that there is a great distinction between the twofold. They train themselves to batter each other a few dollars a head; they lead the rows and brawls at elections and on race-courses: they go armed each night with revolvers and knives, and when the devil of liquor is in them, they commit the murders and brutal acts of violence which stain our City's Police records. Almost every one is marked by these hideous quarrels; his nose broken or his ear bitten off, or his body marred by the scars of bullet or knife-gash. They are gamblers;—they throw the dice and shuffle the cards, or push the billiard ball, the whole night long. They cheat as well as stake, and live on the pickings of young gentlemen of means, who fall into their voracious claws.—The gas-light is the day-light for them; rooms hot and reeking with the smell of debauch, their natural atmosphere. They take no note of time—as one witness apologetically explained with regard to his memory of dates—"for their day is in the night; and they are wild in riot or plunder, when other men sleep. Their hands are stained with blood, and their pockets lined with the gold of the innocent. They are pimps and seducers. The houses of crime send them out to the simple-hearted and unwary in city and country, to fill the ranks of the wretched and debauched. Still their own lives are black with acts of lusts and treachery, wrought on those who trusted them. They know the windings of crime in the various countries; the gambling tricks of California, the skill of the burglar and thief of London, the quick evasion of the Police in Paris, and the ready use of knife and pistol in America. They have the slang language of flashmen. They belong to the great community of desperadoes, who abound wherever English is spoken. Of course, as with all men, there are good qualities among them; instances of honor and generosity, and of a courage which wounds and death do not shake. But generally speaking their lives are hideous—stained with crimes, animal, brutal, selfish and debauched. They rob, gamble and cheat; the fight and brawl and murder; they live in the dark; they debauch and brutify themselves; they trap the unwary, and ruin the poor and innocent; they are the hired bullies of electioneers, *claqueurs* at primary meetings; they live on plunder rapine and robbery.

Such are the men who form the foundation of society in New York; whose existence is hardly known till a case like this of such horrible blood-shed and violence calls them out of their holes to the daylight! Yet the police know these men. Every one,—name and history,—we doubt not, is familiar to the Police records. Their haunts, their business, even the dark suspicion of their crimes are perfectly open to the guardians of our public order. Our politicians can tell you by name each leader in the desperate gangs. Thousands and thousands of dollars have gone from the pockets of our wealthy party leaders to the hands of such desperadoes. During some years these villains have lived on the gold of rich office-seekers, and of moral, perhaps religious merchants, who gave blindly to support their candidate. Thank Heaven! that is for the present over. If the Know-Nothings do nothing better, they will receive the thanks of posterity for having at least broken up the system of employing foreign and native bullies in our elections. For the last few years, the abandoned characters who live at the bottom of New York, seem to have frightfully increased. Pool's murder served to show people first what a numerous and terrible class of worthless men lay hidden here.

What should be done? Sometimes as each day brings out some new evidence of our social corruption, some new connivances of judges with criminals, some new act of incredible villainy in high places, some new fraud or pecu-

lation or robbery among the governors of society or some new astounding crime among the depraved and ignorant classes, and as one—remembers that these things which usually mark an old decaying civilization, belong to our youth, one is ready to say in despair. "Our Society is hopelessly rotten." But it is not so. It is true the vices and extravagances of wealth and the crimes of the Old World have centered here till the City needs from pulpit and press a continual censor, who, like Caro, shall thunder against the hollowness and corruption and dishonesty and licentiousness which rule—who shall even cast off innocent pleasures, to show, as did the Puritans, the grand stern obligation of Duty and Morality. It is true, these villains and rowdies swarm—but like vermin, it is in the night. Thus far, they dare not appear in open day. Public opinion is not yet debauched enough to allow them.

They are by name and profession the scum and outcasts of the world. The great current of the middle classes is as New England first set it—towards Morality and Religion. We have good schools, libraries, churches—inducements to virtue and goodness without number. Corruption has not yet eaten out the heart of the great mass of our people. The national conscience still rejects with loathing, peccation and debauchery and vice. The great evil is the laziness of the good. If our moral community only would arise, take the reins of government, and direction of society into their own hands even for a little while, oust rousterges from office and arraign unjust judges; put honest and faithful policemen into the posts of many who are only accomplices of rascals and vagabonds; if they would but show their hands we should see how little real power these desperate, vicious classes have. Of course, in the worst city, the lovers of order, the virtuous and good, immensely preponderate over the wicked and vile. Society would fall to pieces, if it were not so. In New York, we have the advantage of a continual importation of vigorous, moral young men from New England and the country, who soon in their turn become the leaders of business and social life.

The rub is that our better people will not take the trouble to reform our evils. The rowdies and speculators have their own way, because no one cares enough or knows enough about the matter, to interfere. The great conservators of Society—the Preachers and the Press—must awaken now to our dangers. The grand principles of duty, the instinct of self-possession, the sentiment of Religion must be appealed to, to guard Society from these increasing evils.

There must be a sterner, purer morality—applicable to every branch of practical life, and no longer a mere technical abstraction, preached from the desk. The Press must fearlessly root out and expose every evil, and against whatever obloquy, speak always for the just and moral and true. Men of uprightnes must not fear to soil their hands in domestic politics, but finally do their part in cleaning this Augean stable of filth and iniquity. We must lay our hands to this, or the desperadoes will finally overturn and debauch Society here, as they did in Rome. Let every lover of public morality and well being take the matter seriously to heart.

THE RIGHT MAN COME AT LAST! OR, THE PROGRESS OF MEDICINE.

It was with ordinary pride and satisfaction that we lately had the honor of an introduction to one of the most eminent men of the age, Professor Thomas Holloway a gentleman who has done more for the advancement of medical science than any other that can be named, not excluding such renowned "savans" as Abercrombie, Rush, Clark, or Majencio. The Professor has recently travelled in the United States, having visited this country for the purpose of establishing a depot for the sale of his medicines in New York. It is true that our public have long been familiar with his great reputation, but partly owing to the heavy duty imposed upon imported medicines, are partly to the unwillingness of physicians and druggists to advance the interests of a professional brother, whose superior knowledge and skill threatened to cast their own pretensions into the shade, the sale (although great) in America of his wonderful remedies has not yet equalled the enormous demand which exists throughout the whole of Europe, Australia, the East Indies, and most other parts of the civilized world. It was for this reason that Professor, a few months ago, determined to make New York the great location of a great American depot for the preparation and sale of his medicines, rivaling in extent and usefulness his celebrated establishment in London, which as all travellers know, is one of the "institutions" of that city. We have reason to congratulate ourselves, and especially our sick and afflicted fellow citizens, upon his felicitous resolution.

For proceeding step by step, on strictly scientific principles, the Professor, at the early part of his career, attained to a discovery, which placed him above all competition in the triumphs of the healing art. He noticed how much of the boasted medical knowledge of the present day was empirical, and how little was really known of the laws of human physiology. Continuing his investigations, a happy thought struck him, like an inspiration, and he located the seat of every disease,—no matter what its nature and diagnosis,—in the blood. The blood has vitality; the blood is alive; it is indeed in the language of Scripture, "the life of man." If that stream of existence is impure, how can the human being be otherwise than feeble, exhausted, emaciated and afflicted by

various forms of disease? To purify the blood and keep it pure, is virtually, to banish sickness from the earth. Here then is hope for the sufferer. The poor invalid despairing of recovery, may go forth into the world a renovated and strong man. Professor Holloway's treatment eradicates all our ailments; whether they are of the stomach, liver, kidneys, lungs heart or skin, he refers their origin to the blood and restores the apparently diseased organ to pristine and perfect health. Knowing this, as we do from the experience of our friends, as well as from our own, we discharge but a Samaritan duty to the public by a cordial recommendation of Holloway's Pills and Ointment—the former for internal derangements of the system; the latter for external application to wounds and sores, which have resisted every other so-called remedy.—*N. Y. Atlas.*

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

London, January 8.—Lord Pamure has this day received a despatch of which the following is a copy, addressed to his Lordship by Gen. William Codrington, K.C.B.:

SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 25.

My Lord.—Notwithstanding the recent severe weather, thermometer a few nights ago have fallen nearly to zero, the general state of health of the army has continued good. The roads are in fair working order, and though the efficiency of the locomotive engines was impaired by the frost, the damage has been made good.

The final operations on the docks have been somewhat delayed on our side by the influx of water and by the freezing of pumps.

The firing on the north side of the harbour continues and it is at times heavy, but the casualties, I am happy to say, are few.

There has been no movement of importance on the part of the enemy, in our neighbourhood of late.

A detachment of French troops surprised a Cossack post near Kilon, a few days ago killing several men and taking the rest prisoners.

The general drill of the army makes good progress.

Baltic Campaign.—The naval authorities of Cherbourg have been ordered to arm three screw liners and three sailing frigates, which are to be ready for the opening out of the campaign of the Baltic in April next. In addition to these ships are to be fitted out with all possible despatch. Charborg is to arm the war screw vessel *Tonne* of 1200 tons.

The vessels of the Iceland station, and the five bomb vessels, and the twelve steam gun boats which have returned from the last campaign in the Baltic, are to be part of the formidable expedition which is to operate in that sea next spring.

The news from Sweden state that General Block, minister of war in Norway, and Commander-in-Chief of the army, has been directed to organize the Norwegian troops in concert with the head of the war department of Stockholm.

The Swedish Journal reports, under date of Stockholm, December 24—Activity unexampled reigns in every manufactory for producing articles necessary for the equipment of a large army.

The Colonels of all the regiments received orders to supply their troops with everything necessary to prepare them for marching at the first signal.

The order was given secretly, but it was in its nature impossible of concealment. All leaves of absence are refused to officers.

Everybody here believes that in case the Allies should open the war with vigor in the Baltic next spring, our Government will feel himself compelled to take an active part therein.

Vienna, January 4.—The amnesty which has been granted to the Poles includes some foreigners, among whom are ten Germans and three Frenchmen. Col. DeManteuffel had an audience of the Emperor yesterday. The chances of an understanding between Prussia and Austria appear to be increasing.

The Cavalry Affair at Kertch.—The Russian victory in the Crimea appears to have been a very small victory indeed. The Turkish party defeated was only a foraging party of sixty-five men, who were surprised and surrounded by a hundred-fold their number of Russians.—Capt. Sherwood, their English officer, ordered a retreat but they were obliged to cut their way through the masses of the enemy. The Turkish soldiers threw themselves on their enemies and fought with heroism. Capt. Sherwood who was conspicuous by his English uniform, fell one of the first. His death did not check the ardour of the soldiers, who fought with renewed fury. Twenty-five succeeded in cutting their way through, and so escaping.—The remaining forty horsemen, officers and soldiers either died on the battle field, or were taken prisoners.

The Baltic Fleet for 1856.—The London Globe gives, as nearly as possible, an accurate list of the Baltic fleet for 1856. It is to consist of thirty-eight line-of-battle ships and heavily armed frigates, mounting 5812 guns; eighteen corvettes and steam frigates, mounting 362 guns; twenty smaller steamers, with 105 guns; seventeen dispatch gunboats, with 78 guns; three floating batteries, with 52 guns; four heavy mortar ships, mounting 44 pieces; 137 gun-boats and mortar-boats, carrying two heavy pieces of ordnance on an average. There will also be a store ammunition ship, hospital ship, and a floating factory. Total, 243 ships-of-war; all, with the exception of a store-ship

and a hospital ship, propelled by steam. Total guns, 3667.

The Next Campaign.—The Constitutional has the following:—"If Russia, vanquished in the Crimea, is obstinate enough to reject peace, the principal theatre of the war must be transported, at the opening of the next campaign, from the shores of the Black Sea to those of the Baltic. We shall then expect to see the Western Powers—strong in the sympathy of the Scandinavian peoples, and in the moral and material support of the Scandinavian Governments—direct the bulk of their naval and military forces on the capital of the Czars, and perhaps combine their plans so as to strike at St. Petersburg by the conquest of Finland.—Such an expedition, undertaken with the co-operation of the military forces of a state like Sweden will certainly not encounter difficulties as great as those which were able to retard for some time, it is true, but not hinder, the fall of the impregnable Sebastopol, and it would have for result a most desirable change in the condition of the balance of power in Europe.—The first consequence of a permanent reduction of Russian power in the Baltic would be in fact to give to the Scandinavian peoples the natural preponderance they formerly enjoyed. In that reduction, they would have the most sure and solid guarantee against those encroachments towards them of the Czar which Russian politics have never ceased to pursue."

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Another Conviction under the Prohibitory Liquor Law.—On Monday last, Mr. Abraham Mitten, who formerly kept a Licensed Tavern, at Salisbury, was put upon his trial before Michael S. Harris, Esq., one of the County Magistrates, for a breach of the Law—in having sold Liquors subsequent to its coming into operation.

The case was postponed from the previous Monday, in consequence of the absence of a witness who did not appear on the Summons, and had rendered it necessary for a Warrant to be sent for his appearance.

A good deal of interest was manifested, and the Mayor's Office where the trial took place; was crowded to excess by anxious spectators.

At the hour appointed the parties appeared, and the case was conducted by Bliss Botsford, Esq., for the defence, and Mr. James Robertson, for the prosecution. A good many objections were made by the former gentleman, but the Justice having over-ruled the whole of them the examination of witness was proceeded with, and after a full investigation of all the circumstances, and the elaborate arguments of the Learned Counsel, for the defence, had been listened to, His Honor reserved his decision till the following morning, when the result was a penalty of £10, and £5 13s. costs.

An appeal has, of course, been made.—*Westmorland Times.*

Serious Disturbance in Woodstock—the Liquor Law.—Woodstock, Jan. 28th, 1856.—On Friday some disturbance took place in consequence of the seizure of some liquor belonging to a man named John Caldwell. The peace officer succeeded so far as to get the outside cellar door dug open, when a number of persons came to the rescue and filled the place with cordwood, &c. A serious row then ensued, in which several persons were a good deal hurt. This lasted until about 2 P. M. when P. P. Sharp, a special constable, who had been a great deal beaten, was knocked down by one Wm. Patchell. Sharp then drew a pistol and fired at Patchell, but it is supposed that it was charged with nothing but powder. The crowd then fell upon Sharp and most likely would have killed him but for the interference of the Sheriff who came to his rescue, and arrested him for using unlawful weapons. Owing to the disturbance, only a few gallons of liquor were secured, but there is little doubt that there is a large quantity somewhere in the neighbourhood. Three other seizures took place in the course of the day without any resistance to speak of. Sharp was not so much injured as was first anticipated.—*Telegraph to Freeman.*

The Liquor Cases in Fredericton.—We learn from the New Brunswicker's Fredericton correspondent, that in the cases of Thomas and another, charged before Mayor Needham on Wednesday last with infringing the Prohibitory Liquor Law, the Mayor, after taking some time for consideration, gave his decision on last Saturday morning. The decision was in writing but will, doubtless, be published. He acknowledged that he was wrong in issuing summonses and subpoenas, and that the Counsel for Defence were right in their construction of the law,—that the person giving information, must do so on oath,—that it must be positive, and that no person can be compelled to go forward and give evidence against his will. He therefore dismissed the cases.

The Moncton Liquor Case.—We understand, says the New-Brunswicker, that the conviction under the Liquor Law which was obtained before the Mayor of Moncton, against Mr James Harris, was yesterday (Monday) brought up before His Honor Mr. Justice Ritchie, on an application by the defendant for a writ of *Certiorari* in order to question the same. The case was argued before His Honor by Mr Thompson, for the defendant, and by Mr Kerr in support of the conviction. The Judge, after counselling with His Honor Judge Parker, decided that the conviction could not be sustained, and ordered the writ to issue.

On Saturday last, the case of Mr O'Connor, whose sled was stopped in Carleton, and ale or beer taken therefrom, was brought before Mr Justice Salter, who fined the driver in the sum of £20. Mr O'Connor has appealed.