

is common air reduced to a liquid by means of heavy pressure.

—On the 27th Milwaukee celebrated the completion of the fiftieth year of Wisconsin's statehood.

—Congressman Bland was renominated by acclamation by the democrats of the Eighth Missouri district on the 23d.

—Walter Wellman's arctic expedition sailed on the 26th from Tromsøe, island of Tromsøe, Norway, in search of Prof. Andree and to discover the north pole.

—Edward F. Underhill, the veteran court stenographer of New York, is dead. He was 68 years old. During his more active life he was one of the best-known and best-liked men in his state.

—Count de Cassini, Russia's first ambassador to the United States, was presented to the president in the blue parlor of the white house on the 23d. The usual amicable speeches were made.

—Mrs. William B. Lowe, of Georgia, was elected on the 27th, at Denver, as president of the General Federation of Women's clubs. The vote was 429 for her, against 234 for Alice Ives Breed, of Boston, Mass.

—The second section of a train carrying Col. Torrey's regiment of rough riders, of Cheyenne, Wyo., ran into the first section at Tupelo, Miss., killing five troopers, fatally wounding one, and injuring 14 others including the colonel.

—Admiral Sampson reported on the 24th that upon careful investigation he withdraws the charge of mutilation of American soldiers by the Spanish, being satisfied that the apparent mutilation was probably due to the effect of short-range firing.

—The law passed by congress in February, 1897, authorizing the postmaster-general to indemnify the owners of registered mail for losses, to the amount of ten dollars, or for actual value of the mail lost if less in value than ten dollars, will go into effect July 1.

—The three parties—populist, republican-silver and democratic—made fusion nominations in South Dakota on the 23d. On the 29th the prohibitionists of Iowa, the republicans of Arkansas and the democrats of Tennessee, Georgia and Pennsylvania, made their nominations.

Michael Schwab died on the 29th at the Alexian Brothers' hospital, Chicago, after an illness of eight months due to consumption and spinal troubles. Mr. Schwab was one of the "anarchists" of Chicago who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1887 and pardoned by Gov. Altgeld in 1893.

—The Holland submarine boat has a rival. It is the Raddatz, which was tested at Milwaukee on the 28th. Three men went down in her and remained under water an hour and fifteen min-

utes, 35 minutes longer than the longest record of the Holland. She is submerged and raised with ease and remains even at a great depth on an even keel.

—Andres Moreno de la Torre, secretary of foreign affairs of the Cuban republic, has arrived in this country to confer officially with the president and secretary of state. It is doubted, however, that the president will see him officially. Vice President Capote, of the Cuban republic, has been here several weeks without securing an official interview.

—Gen. Wheeler's appointment to a place in the volunteer army has raised a question as to his right to remain a member of the lower house of congress. While relinquishing all claims to the emoluments of his congressional office, he insists that it is not vacated by his acceptance of a commission in the volunteer service; but the governor of his state takes a different view of the matter, and has ordered an election for the 1st of August.

—At the joint attack on the part of the Texas and the Cubans at Matamoros, west of Santiago, on the 22d, which was reported on page 8 last week, though the Texas destroyed an important battery, she was herself struck in the bow by a shell, which penetrated the side below the main deck, and, exploding, killed a first-class apprentice and wounded three seamen, four apprentices and one landsman. Only one of the wounded men was dangerously hurt. F. R. Blakeley, of Newport, the first-class apprentice who was killed, stood about two feet from the place of explosion, and was literally torn to pieces.

MISCELLANY

MIRACLES.

Since I have listened to the song
The melted snow-bank sings,
I've roamed the earth a credulous man,
Believing many things.
The snow which made the mountains
white,
Made green the babbling lea;
And since that day have miracles
Been commonplace to me.

Sprung from the slime of sluggish streams,
Inert, and dark, and chilly,
Have I not seen the miracle
And glory of the lily?
Have I not seen, when June's glad smile
Upon the earth reposes,
The cosmic impulse in the clod
Reveal itself in roses?

Have I not seen the frozen hill,
Where snowy chaos tosses,
Smile back upon the smiling sun
With violets and mosses?
Have I not seen the dead old world
Rise to a newer birth,
When fragrance from the lilac blooms
Rejuvenates the earth?

Have I not seen the rolling earth,
A clod of frozen death,
Burst from its grave-clothes of the snow,
Touched by an April breath?
Have I not seen the bare-boughed tree,
That from the winter shrinks,
Imparadised in apple blooms
And loud with bobolinks?

Now, who can riddle me this thing,
Or tell me how or where
The tulip stains its crimson cup
From the transparent air?
So, from the wonder-bearing day
I take the gifts it brings,
And roam the earth a credulous man,
Believing many things.
—Sam. Walter Foss, in "Dreams in Home-spun."

REFORMS THAT ARE A WASTE OF TIME.

The next thing after being dissatisfied with things as they are, is to find out why they are as they are, and how it is that in everyday life, men, to procure a living of even the most meager sort, have to make it to the absolute disadvantage of their neighbors, whom they are told to love as themselves.

Here is a cursory review of a few of the difficulties that are obstructing the way of the Lord:

First, until our present system is altered, charities, hospitals, schools, reformatories, etc., only intensify the difficulties. How? By drawing more population to the locality where they are established, thereby increasing the rent of bare land and consequently decreasing wages. Remember, you never pay rent for a house; it is the land upon which it is built. For the house you only pay interest on capital expended in building it; in other words, enough to replace it or keep it in repair.

Second.—Our cooperative societies, which under a proper system would be a blessing, under the present only succeed in making a few more successful lower, middle class people, and result in making the condition of those outside worse than ever by reducing prices, thereby bringing population to the locality and consequently raising the value of land, which means more rent and lower wages.

Third.—Trades unions have also failed in ameliorating the general condition of labor, and in the nature of things must always do so. They are destructive in their action, not reconstructive. Their aims in the main are right, but their methods, invalid. All they have accomplished so far is to educate and show by practical demonstration what they cannot do.

Fourth.—Deprivation, economy and temperance, or even total abstinence under the present system, if put in practice generally, would end in disaster to civilization by causing a return to sav-

age conditions of life. What do they mean? They mean that if I, as an individual, stop drinking and smoking, or deprive myself of any product of labor, that I desire, that I gain so much, provided the great majority of people continue spendthrifts, prodigals and drunkards—or in other words, continue to be too ignorant to know how, or too tender hearted to be able to carry out all the petty meannesses embodied in the term economy—meannesses that take the milk of human kindness out of life, and eventually leave the persons who practice them utterly selfish, and an abominable product of Pharisaism, or that modern product termed a self-made man. Of these self-made people Huxley once said: "I have always taken this phrase about 'self-making' to be a metaphor, and a very foolish one, inasmuch as the men said to be self-made are usually those whom nature especially favored with costly gifts and exceptional opportunities." If instead of one alone, or a minority of us becoming economical, or total abstainers, the deprivation and total abstinence clap-trap drummed into the masses by well-intentioned, misinformed temperance lecturers, or a few equally well intentioned politicians, altogether ignorant of the simplest laws that govern society as a whole, and the big majority of equally ignorant but intentionally selfish political humbugs—if these should be taken seriously and a majority of the masses were to put into practice these doctrines, by, for instance, refraining from smoking and drinking, what would be the consequences? At once all the people now employed in the production of tobacco and drink would be thrown into the reservoir of unemployed labor and thus add to the pressure for employment in other lines of productive industry. Down the wages would come, just the difference of the prices of the smokes and drinks; and if the masses still continued the same course and deprived themselves of clothes, articles of food, etc., in the lapse of a few years every factory and farm in the land would be idle and civilization wiped out. Don't say that because I show this would inevitably happen under our present system if deprivation were put into practice, that I am advocating intemperance. By no means. I believe in doing away with the causes that produce intemperance, not alone in smoking and drinking, but in everything else.—W. L. Sinton.

SIXTY YEARS AGO AND NOW.

In 1837, when Victoria was crowned, the entire (British) white colonial pop-

ulation was only 1,250,000. To-day it is over 10,000,000. At that time India was not yet a direct dependency of the crown, but was still under the rule of the East India company. Hong-Kong had not been added as a military outpost, nor was nearly so large a part of the Malay Peninsula under British control. In all Australasia, in 1837, there were only about 100,000 British colonists—scattered in Tasmania, New Zealand and South Australia—and most of these were supposed to be felons and convicts. The interior of Australia was entirely unexplored. The resources were unknown, its future undreamed. To-day Australasia is made up of seven rich provinces, and has a population of 4,000,000, as loyal, intelligent and progressive British subjects as exist on the globe. In South Africa, 60 years ago, the English domain was confined to the southern point of the continent; to-day it extends, with only one important break, from the Cape to the sources of the Nile. When Victoria ascended the throne the British in North America were nearly all gathered in Ontario and Quebec, and the Hudson Bay company occupied all the central and western provinces of what is now known as the Canadian Dominion. British Columbia was an unknown waste, only to be reached by a terrible sea voyage around Cape Horn. Yet to-day the imperial government is in force over all this vast territory. London is now only ten days from Vancouver and every year is seeing the development of new resources in a territory once believed to be useless save as a fur-producing country.—Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, in McClure's for July.

TENEMENT HOUSE CONDITIONS IN THE POORER PARTS OF NEW YORK CITY.

In tenements, the average family has one light room, the other either dark or lighted by an airshaft. Some of the houses are in moderately good sanitary condition, but many are extremely bad. I believe, upon the whole, that the old style of tenement house is better than the new. The rooms were larger, with more light and air, less of the ground was built over, unless there was a rear tenement. Now we find three or four tiny rooms, dark with "modern conveniences." Part of the kitchen is occupied by a couple of stationary washtubs and a sink. When a stove, a table and a couple of chairs are added, the room is almost completely filled. The front room is large enough to accommodate a table, a lounge, three or four chairs. Thus there is no room for more than two people at one time. The bedroom

will hold a three-quarters bed and occasionally a chair may be squeezed in. For such a place as this ten to twelve dollars per month will be charged.

To-day I saw a family (an ordinary case) where the front room of such an apartment as described was used for a shoe mending shop. The man and two assistants mended old "shoes for the trade." They, with their tools and a lounge, completely filled the room. There was a kitchen and two bedrooms, the latter so small that in order to examine my patient I either had to sit on the bed or stand up. The family consists of six persons and three lodgers. The rent is \$10.50 per month. The apartment is what is called the basement of the new style of flat-house, but is really a part of the cellar plastered off.

This week in a similar apartment, where men, women and children were finishing trousers, we found three families—one lived in the bedroom, one in the kitchen and the other in the front room. A fourth family came to join the family in the front room on the last day of my visit to the child sick with diphtheria.—Dr. A. S. Daniel, in Municipal Affairs for June.

THE FRUITS OF OBSTINACY.

According to the New York World the present year is to see the last of the horse car in that city, and even the cable is soon to give place to the underground electric trolley. The underground trolley has been in successful operation in Washington, D. C., for some time, and has made the street railway system of that city the admiration of all visitors. This is the system that is being adopted in New York.

While all the other cities in the country outside of Washington, except New York, were boasting of the improved service they were getting by substituting the overhead trolley for the horse car, New York remained obdurate against the overhead trolley. That city is now reaping its reward in being given the best form of electric traction. The New York World regards this as a great object lesson. It says:

People everywhere said that New York was slow and stupidly conservative because we refused to adopt the "modern improvement" of the overhead trolley. To every effort to introduce that nuisance the press of this city opposed itself resolutely, and so successfully that there is now but one overhead trolley line on Manhattan island, and that a short one. Now, it was this obstinate refusal of New York to permit overhead trolleys that compelled the adoption of the underground trolley. It is not too much to say that this is the very best system of surface traction that has ever been used in a great city. * * * By resolutely refusing to accept an objectionable "improvement" we have secured as