

And yet this kind of business, besides its profits great,
Has one advantage really surprising to relate,
Since valiant, honest warriors against monopoly
Apparently regard it as a useful industry!
And those who for the praise of men would gladly take much pains,
Nor would be known to soil their hands with aught but honest gains,
Find in the grabbing of the earth—that unwhipped social sin—
A tempting chance to not play false and yet to wrongly win.

While through the wilderness of wrong the blind conduct the blind,
What region good intentions pave is often brought to mind,
When leaders look to tyrants' laws our tyrants to defeat
And see without a pang the earth snatched from beneath our feet.

JAY HAWKINS.

THE FILIPINO LABORER.

Between 1852 and 1888 I spent more than 20 years in the Philippines. During those years all the agricultural labor was done by Filipinos. . . .

I got once a good lesson in manners from an old Filipino. I was overseeing some work which went slowly and not to my liking. I slung out at the men the word "Brutos!" (brutes). The old fellow approached me politely, and said: "I beg your worship's pardon; we are not 'brutos,' but we do not understand the language your worship uses." I apologized, and I hope never so failed in sense and politeness again.—Ogden E. Edwards, in New York Nation of Jan. 8.

CHARACTER.

Character is a by-product.—Woodrow Wilson.

Mankind have always been more or less busy, it is likely.

What have they wrought?

Nothing permanent, except character.

So fleet the works of men, back to their earth again,
Ancient and holy things fade like a dream.—

The Tower of Babel has vanished. The Pyramids are vanishing. But whatsoever of character the Babylonians and the Egyptians built remains and will remain.

The saying that character is a by-product is smart. A successful pork-packer saying it would be voted clever. But a president of Princeton—

This is truly an era of remarkable things.—Life.

TAXATION BY "AGREEMENT."

Editorial in New York World of February 1.

The farce of personal-property taxation in this city is not shown more clearly in the discovery of a success-

ful scheme to swear off assessments by dummies, or perjury by proxy, than it is by the custom of accepting the unsupported statements of rich men as to how much personal assessments they are willing to "stand for."

On Friday Messrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Jacob H. Schiff, George W. Vanderbilt and other men of large wealth appeared before the tax commissioners to secure a reduction of their personal assessments. Mr. Morgan was assessed for \$600,000, but claimed that the value of his taxable securities is "largely exceeded by the indebtedness against them." He explained: "I borrow a great deal of money, in fact millions." As reported in the Sun Mr. Morgan further said:

In point of actual fact I cannot legally be required to pay any personal tax, because, as I have stated, my investments and holdings are non-assessable for personal taxation. But I don't want to be looked upon as a tax-dodger. I think that every man doing a large volume of business in this city ought to pay something in personal taxation. If I am required to take an oath to this effect, I will pay nothing, but if you are willing to accept my personal statement, I will pay on \$400,000 assessment.

Mr. Morgan's statement was accepted, and he was not sworn. In like manner and upon similar grounds the assessment of Mr. Schiff was reduced to \$200,000, and that of George W. Vanderbilt to \$50,000.

The first reflection of the average citizen upon this transaction is likely to take form in the pertinent question: Why is the unsupported statement of very rich men as to their taxable property accepted by the tax commissioners, while the ordinary citizen is required to swear off or to pay?

Without questioning the veracity of any of these multi-millionaires, is it not a fact that the pictures and furnishings alone in any of their mansions—not to mention the jewels—are worth many times the sum of the personal assessment which they are permitted to fix for themselves?

If personal property cannot be more fully and equitably taxed it is time to repeal the law altogether.

ENGLISH COMMENTS ON OUR COAL FAMINE.

Editorial notes in the London Spectator of January 17.

The pictures of the prosperity, happiness, and comfort of the working population of the United States which are so frequently drawn by the American millionaire are not confirmed by the accounts which reach us of their sufferings during the present winter. A Reuter's telegram from Chicago

(January 12) stated that "extremely cold weather prevails in the Western States, and a number of persons have been frozen to death." This is attributed to the extreme price of coal, which is still in some places as high as three pounds sterling per ton. Now, the coal owners of the United States are protected by a tariff against foreign competition, and this duty is evidently held to be responsible for the acute misery of the situation, for both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate action has been taken with a view to the removal or suspension of the duty. But if the American has so large a margin of comfort, how is it that a rise in the price of fuel involving an additional expenditure of, say, three or four shillings a week for a month or two, results in "a number of persons being frozen to death?" And if, as Mr. Carnegie has argued in print, protection lowers prices, why do protectionist assemblies seek to lower prices by removing a protective duty? Providence seems determined to prove that even the richest and largest free trade area in the world cannot afford to defy the laws of political economy.

The seriousness of the crisis in America is shown by the extraordinary proceedings at Washington on Wednesday, when a bill for a rebate equal to the duty on all kinds of coal coming from all countries for a year passed the House by 258 votes to 5. Therefore the bill went up to the Senate, which passed it immediately on receiving it from the House. An amendment was adopted by the Senate adding a section to prevent the imposition of a duty on anthracite coal after the expiration of time provided in the act. We cannot help being reminded that the death knell of protection was sounded in England by the Irish famine, which was the proximate cause of the conversion of Sir Robert Peel and half the conservative party to free trade.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY. CIVIL SERVICE UPHELD.

Theodore Wensink, a prominent member of the Buckeye club, and one of the select coterie of Salenite leaders, was discharged from his position of waterworks assessor by Superintendent Bemis yesterday morning. Wensink did not take his dismissal with good grace. Instead of kissing the hand that smote him, he proceeded to call down imprecations upon the devoted head of the learned superintendent. Incidentally he said mean things about Mayor Johnson for allowing the professor to remain at the head of the waterworks department,