THE EASTON GAZETTE.

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[There resides in Durban, Africa, a gentleman who has traveled the world over and transacted business in every Continent upon the globe.

He is a native of New Jersey, graduate of a renowned institution and a writer and lecturer of marked ability.

He has visited Easton, and many persons will remember Dr. R. H. Lamb to whom this refers.

He takes up for America wherever he travels, and makes it warm for those who oppose him in argument. Some of his printed letters in foreign papers are exceedingly entertaining, and the one subjoined is clipped from the Natal Mercury, South Africa, under date of January 8th.—Editor GAZETTE.]

New York's Municipal Corruption.

Sir,—Since you have devoted considerable of your space dilating upon the corruption of the municipality of New York, without making any direct attempt to explain the cause and cure of the evils referred to, I would like to pursue the subject a little beyond the superficial aspect which you present. That there has been, and probably still is, some very corrupt management of its municipal affairs, nobody conversant with the subject will attempt to deny or dispute. "The tweed Ring" was something marvellous in its way, really appalling to contemplate, and constituted a political epoch unique in the history of the United States. You say "How low down American public life has sunk is proved by the very fact that Tammany Hall is allowed to exist, and that there is nothing that shakes one's confidence in the future of democracy and republican institutions like a study of its career." Therein, permit me to say, you very seriously err, for you might assert with an equal amount of truth and justice: "How low down English moral and social life has become is exemplified by the character and exploits of Jack the Ripper, and that there is nothing that shakes one's confidence in the future of English civilization like a study of his career, or a perusal of Booth's book, "Darkest England."

It seems almost impossible for Europeans who have never been to America, to get a comprehensive idea of just what democracy and republican instiutions really are. Mr. Brice is about the only one who has ever got and set forth correct impressions of the political workings of the United States. In order for him to obtain the authentic information embraced in his book, "The American Commonwealth," he had to go there and study the subject without prejudice; and, therefore, what he wrote is reliable and acceptable to those who actually know. A perusal of his work will give inquiring Europeans a comprehensive idea of the whole subject, which has many phases and aspects. To attempt to get a correct understanding of American governmental affairs by a study of Tammany Hall would be just about as delusive as to try to understand the physical condition of a man by the careful examination of a boil on the back of his neck, without any knowledge of, or reference to, any other part of his body. There are always causes and effects, as well as conditions, to be considered.

One very erroneous idea which Europeans are very apt to run away with, is that New York is a representative American city, which it is not. It is the dumping ground of all Europe. It is estimated that there are twice as many Irish in New York (mostly illiterate) as in Dublin. The notorious Boss Tweed, who held high carnival of political corruption there 25 years ago, was one of them (and Croker is another), and a large majority of his tools and allies were never born upon American soil; and, therefore, never educated up to a proper appreciation of the boon of democracy or the responsibilities of citizenship. They were simply undesirable emigrants—Europeans with naturalization papers who exerted a criminal abuse of the hospitality extended to them. It was the same thing in the case of the "boodle aldermen"—scarcely a genuine American among them. One reason why the American people are apathetic about such matters, is that direct taxation there is comparatively light, much less than in Europe. New York with all its bad government has a debt of only 10 per cent of the value of its property, which is about the same as that of Manchester. Liverpool has 32.5 per cent. Philadelphia, which is a representative American city, has less than 3 per cent., rather less than London, which is the English ideal. The annual sum total taxation of the average American citizen does not amount to more than 2 per cent. of the assessed value of the property he holds, which is equivalent to about 1 per cent. of its actual value. If taxation should get to be half so hard to bear as in Europe, there would probably be more interest elicited; but, as it is, the percentage of dishonest officials throughout the country is very small. When such are found to exist, there is a big noise about it in the papers, and the evildoers generally meet with the retribution they deserve. Thus, Boss Tweed died in prison, with humiliation and disgrace, and the "boodle aldermen" were driven to ignominious exile, or convicted and incarcerated in the State penitentiary.

Every intelligent American knows, and freely admits, that New York is a badly-congested centre of the bad blood of Christendom. It is the refuge of all the nations of Europe, and therein lies the difficulty of maintaining a good and pure municipal government There are hundreds of well-governed cities in other parts of the country, where this difficulty does not exist. We hear nothing about them, however. If it were not for the continued influx of a large ignorant alien element, the matter would soon be adjusted, even in New York, and it would not be possible for Tammany Hall to long survive. Let me tell you one thing right here in this connection, that the foreign element of the United States, constituting about 14½ per cent. of the whole population, furnishes more than one-third of the paupers maintained at public expense; and, as to crime, Mulhall says (note the authority): "It is remarkable that although foreigners compose but one seventh of the population, they supply 14,000 offenders, or 30 per cent. of the total." That's interesting! It is a great mistake to imagine that the health and security of American institutions are materially affected by a few sore spots upon the body politic, or that the principle of democracy is in any way imperiled by the peculation of a few local politicians.

For such existing evils there is a remedy thoroughly characteristic and consistent with the national policy, and that remedy is now in course of preparation. It consists of educating every boy up to the point of becoming an intelligent voter. Intelligence is the natural enemy of the political demagogue, and is destined to ultimately knock him out. The school-house is the great up holding pillar of the Republic, and the sheet-anchor of its hope. Nobody in this world appreciates that fact better than Uncle Sam, for he puts his hand right down into his long pocket every year, and pulls out more than 100 million dollars to support it—a sum much greater than is expended for the same purpose by England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, Germany and Russia combined, unto the end that every child in his broad domain, shall be provided with a good education free of cost. The total amount of his land devoted exclusively to educational purposes and endowments exceeds 78,000,000 acres, which represents an area greater than the whole of England, Ireland and Scotland. Please remember that education is the great civilizer, and when you have any mournful forebodings of the future of the American Republic, bear these important facts in mind. Also remember that its failure from the beginning has been persistently predicted by the wiseacres of Europe, who emphatically pronounced its fundamental principle, that "all men are born free and equal and with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," a political heresy which never could be successfully maintained. Their prophecy was that the 13 original States (an unlucky number) would never hold together. They were sure that the Civil War would sever the Union and split the nation. They were dead sure that the enormous national debt of 3,000,000,000 dollars incurred in the maintenance of the principle of the equality of its citizens would be repudiated; its interest even would never be paid. They were confident that the race question would bcome a serious menace to the State, &c. But they have lived to hear Mr. Gladstone (formerly one of the calamity howlers) say a few years later: "In 12 years she (America) has reduced her debt by one hundred and fifty-eight million pounds, or at the rate of thirteen million pounds for each year. In 12 months she has done what we did in eight years; her self-command, self-denial, and wise forethought for the future have been, to say the very least, eight-fold ours. These are facts which redound greatly to her honor; and the historian will record with surprise that an enfranchised nation tolerated burdens which in this country a selected class, possessed of the representation, did not care to face, and that the most unmitigated democracy known in the annals of the world resolutely reduced at its own cost prospective liabilities of the State, which the aristocratic and plutocratic and monarchical government of the United Kingdom had been content ignobly to hand over to posterity.

It is to be presumed that they will keep on predicting failure, in spite of every evidence to the contrary, and in face of the fact that the outlook for its failure never was quite so poor as at the present time. It is, and ever has been, the Poenix of the nations. It is difficult, of course, for the subjects of a monarchy to understand that it is possible for 70 million people to govern themselves by selecting their representatives from their own ranks. The idea has not yet been thoroughly grasped that self-government is the product of intelligence, that where the most liberty is to be found and the best government can be maintained, and that the greatest impediment to wise and good government is an illiterate constituency.

The civilization of the United States has to be built upon altogether new lines. Its principles are slowly and surely making their way in the world. The whole tendency of the age is toward an acceptance of its so-called heresies. That all right of government comes justly from the consent of the governed, that all citizens of the commonwealth should be upon a political equality, that there should be no taxation without representation, that there is no right of search on vessels upon the high seas, that arbitration is the most just, humane and practical means of settling international difficulties, and should be adopted, that every land should be an asylum for political offenders, that there should be extradition for other crimes, and that the individual should have the right to transfer allegiance to any government desired, are all essentially American principles which have won their way to recognition in international law It is too late in the history of Republicanism to call its utility or durability into question. It is the latest and best conception of government that has ever sprung from the mind of man, a revolt against the superstitions of the dark and ignorant past, a living protest against the ways and means of the barbarous and the semi-civilized, a practical demonstration of the evolutiou and onward march of the human race. In the declaration of Independence of 1776 we have the death-knell of all of the monarchies throughout the earth, a prelude to their ultimate destruction.—I am, &c,

R. H. LAMB, D. D. S.

Grandpa's Boy.

I'm going back down to grandpa's.
I won't come back no more
To hear the remarks about my feet
A-muddyin up the floor.
They's too much said about my clothes,
The scoldin's never done—
I'm goin back down to grandpa's,
Where a boy kin hev some fun.

I dug up half his garden
A-gittin worms fer bait.
He said he used to like it
When I laid abed so late.
He said that pie was good fer boys
And candy made 'em grow.
Ef I can't go to grandpa's,
I'll turn pirate first you know.

He let me take his shotgun
An loaded it for me.
The cats they hid out in the barn,
The hens flew up a tree.
I had a circus in the yard
With twenty other boys—
I'm going back to grandpa's,
Where they ain't afraid of noise.

He didn't make me comb my hair
But once or twice a week.
He wasn't watchin out fer words
I didn't orter speak.
He told me stories 'bout the war
And Injuns shot out west.
Oh, I'm goin down to grandpa's,
Fer he knows wot boys like best.

He even run a race with me,
But had to stop an cough.
He rode my bicycle an laughed
Bec'us he tumbled off.
He knew the early apple trees
Around within a mile.
Oh, grandpa was a dandy,
An was "in it" all the while.

I bet you grandpa's lonesome.
I don't care what you say.
I seen him kinder cryin
When you took me away.
When you talk to me of heaven
Where all the good folks go,
I guess I'll go to grandpa's,
An we'll have good times, I know.

—A. T. Worden.



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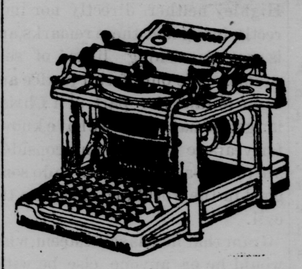
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