

The Political Dragon.

The morals of a nation are often determined by the virtue of its rulers. Henry VIII placed a premium upon impurity, while the virtue of William Wilberforce moved a whole empire. In our own country we may well extoll the present standard of public morality, when we consider that Aaron Burr was a man permeated by iniquity, the prince of debauchees, once a member of our Legislature, afterwards a Senator, and finally Vice President of the United States; also when we recall that a half century ago the governor of New York disbanded the Legislature because it was so corrupt.

In spite of the improvement over former years, there are many Catilines awaiting a better day Cicero. Although great effort is put forth to shield it, there garing eyes of iniquity, debauchery and corruption stare us in.

the face. The monster is gaining complete control of our political system, and unless a Hercules is raised up to slay him, he will overthrow our commonwealth.

The first eye represents incompetency among officials. This is not entirely a modern evil. Our Congressmen have put one duty upon linseed oil, and another upon flaxseed oil, not knowing they were the same thing. Men have represented us in the Legislature who were too stupid to know when or how to vote, until given the signal by the leader.

A visit to the court rooms of some of our towns and cities would furnish examples of wholesome ignorance.

Jurisprudence is expounded in such inaccuracy of phraseology as would be ridiculous if not fraught with such tremendous evils. The study of Kellogg's grammar has not kept his Honor awake many nights, neither has America's free air had time to remove Criss's hue, or citizenship to modify his Celtic brogue.

Men are elected to the office of school commissioners, who are scarcely able to distinguish an arithmetic from a spelling book. Recently applications were made for positions on the New York police force, by those who thought Chicago was a state, and Texas one of the New England States.

This is a sample of the qualifications necessary to hold national and municipal positions of trust, in this closing decade of the nineteenth century. They are men of culture and refinement run down by this stampede of ignorant office seekers.

Because not capability, but political preference and friendship secure the appointment of Post Master General, or Minister to Italy.

Another eye of the dragon reveals to us America's common curse, that old serpent intemperance. History shrinks from recording the shameful occurrences of former years, nevertheless it is an undeniable fact that we once

had a Secretary of the U.S. carried home in a drunken stupor, and a Vice President sworn in when so intoxicated as to be unable to answer intelligibly.

Drunkenness among some of our leaders caused many defeats in the Civil War, and would explain the graves on the plains of many a battle field.

If you doubt that intemperance among public officials is the cause of so many cut glass parlors, and corner grogeries, study the history of legislation in Washington, Albany or Trenton. But the nation overlooks it; the political parties would fain not see it, for fear of destructive losses; the editors are silent lest they lose the favor of the demagogues; our pulpits are silent because the chief among sinners is the wealthy pew-holder or member of the Church. Thus affluence permits unchallenged iniquity. The poor drunken laborer is seized and cast into prison, but the rum-soaked statesman is taken home among damask

cushions. Punish the crimes of the poor
Kuirah! for the grand iniquity of high life.
Raise your hat to the casket ~~of~~ that bears
the ruined statesman, but turn your
head with scorn as the pine coffin passes
bearing the pauper. The world says the
former died of obstruction of the liver,
and the latter of delirium tremens, but God
knows that whiskey killed them both.

This third eye of the
monster represents political bribery. This
curse originated in the late war, when
worm eaten rice, mouldy bread, and
scrap leather shoes, were sent to our
fathers in the army. Today it almost
controls our legislatures. Yonder magnificent
house is a monument of its accursed power.
Why did that man become wealthy so soon
after he became engaged in politics? Why
is it that so many laws are passed
favoring certain manufacturers and monopolies?
Bribery - bribery by money.

It is ruining our land; it is destroying

our free government; it is crushing our unity.

For money Hungary was betrayed; for money Benedict Arnold sold his country and his honor; for money Judas kissed the Christ. To day by our own choices we have hundreds of Judases. The people are waking up to the fact that men of money carry our legislatures in their pockets, and there is trouble ahead.

If men will vote for a damaging law for money, they would sell our country's freedom for gold. No government but ours could stand the scandals of the last thirty years. The Democratic party has filled its coffers; the Republican is laden with spoils. There they are two great evils, who shall pay which is the least?

The cause of so much corruption is individual negligence. Its cure is individual diligence. We must not stand aloof from politics. If we neglect our duty as citizens, we insult the memory of our fathers by whose blood our government

was established.

Let us then stand for the right, let us push through the rabble, and cast our vote for the man who loves God, hates ruin, and despises fraud, remembering that the last mortal thing shall crumble to dust, and for the things done, and the things not done, we shall be judged. Let us look up and entreat Him who ruleth all things, for purity of citizenship and salvation for our country, the United States of America;