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SATURDAY, AUG. 6, 1904.

Begging The Question.

The unerring political statistician and reminiscencer for the Post Express last Monday took issue with a criticism we passed on a previous article in the P. E. for having in our judgment attempted to give to Elliot Danforth credit for work at St. Louis in the interest of Judge Parker which belonged rightfully to former Lieutenant Governor William F. Sheehan.

The Post Express retorts with a scintillating detail of the various court proceedings leading up to the judgment of contempt passed upon Mr. Danforth and his associates in the State Board of Censors of 1891.

The "Journal" did not controvert the accuracy of all this but it did contend that the court of Appeals did uphold in its entirety the political scheme cooked up by David B Hill to capture the state legislature because the court refused to take steps to unseat the senator who was given a certificate of election by Mr. Danforth's state board and helped to give the democrats the control of the state legislature which sent David B. Hill to the United States senate.

The P. E. says Mr. Danforth was chosen as Judge Parker's mouthpiece to convey his views to the public. Everybody familiar with ancient and current political history knows well that Elliot Danforth never would be entrusted with such a mission even by David B. Hill. We venture to predict that when Judge Parker's speech of acceptance reaches the public there will be no similarity between its sentences or thoughts and those on Mr. Danforth's interview.

Just in parting: Won't the P. E. tell us why it tries to rob "Billy" Sheehan of the credit for the part he played in securing Judge Parker's nomination.

At It Again.

The Rev. Mr. Crane of Glenwood avenue church—the Methodist dominie who came to grief for his interference in the Lima school controversy—broke loose again last Sunday morning into a wholesale illogical denunciation of the Catholic Church, its bishops and schools.

There is no sense in entering into an argument with this gentleman. It would give him the advertisement and attention he craves but has not received.

The measure and worth of his trade may be imagined when it is stated that his text consisted of an alleged utterance of Archbishop Quigley which his Grace of Chicago has declared to be a misquotation. The keystone of the structure being rotten the superstructure falls to the ground.

Bishop is Right.

Bishop McQuaid's worth as a public spirited citizen was displayed characteristically last week when he said at a meeting of the Park Commission of which he is an active and valued member:

"I do not see why anyone has a right to interfere with citizens who want to go to the parks. If they behave themselves badly, what are the police for? In Brown Square it was the same way; the police neglected their duty and the people complained. People who have houses fronting on the parks seem to want them for their sole enjoyment, but they pay no more for them than other citizens pay. We should have benches or seats in all the parks and if the people use them

wrongfully the police should take care of them."

Peculiar Doctrine.

America's secular press is a peculiar institution and decidedly inconsistent at times. When President McKinley was assassinated the American press was frenzied in its horror over such a barbarous act. The dead executive was eulogized and made into a demigod while the assassin was execrated and justly too.

But when Catholic Sisters were driven from their convents, their property confiscated and other indignities heaped upon them, there was no outburst of horror or indignation. The affair was treated in an academic tone and the French government if not commended in set terms was not condemned.

Catholic bishops and missionaries are massacred every few months in the East. They are not Christians militant following in the van of the army and navy but humble followers of Jesus Christ, trying in a peaceable way to lead the heathen in His footsteps. Yet the American press does not work itself into a frenzy.

When Protestant preachers who try to interfere with the habits, the customs, the internal economy of the natives, do not succeed in impressing the aforesaid natives as much as they (the preachers wish) the American press forthwith proceeds to scourge the natives as ignorant, stupid, savage and worthy of extermination.

Very properly the American press condemned the Kishineff massacres. But it found no fault when Catholic priests were tortured in the Philippines by soldiers of the American army or when French soldiers drove Catholic nuns into the streets and exiled them from their native country.

The American press rose up in horror over the Chicago anarchists and the Hay market riot. To-day it hails the assassination of the Russian prime minister as an act of Providence! Even the New York "Sun" goes on to proclaim that "there are few intelligent, honest and patriotic subjects of the czar who will not breathe more freely now that they are delivered from the yoke of a detested minister." As a writer on a contemporary remarks: "This seems to mean that the murder was a good thing and that conspiracy and assassination are the means of reform. It is a strange doctrine."

Indeed it is! When a theoretical anarchist like Turner, who is a peaceable fellow opposed to physical violence is denied admission to the United States on a lecturing tour, while a Russian anarchist who murders one of the rulers of his country is made into a hero, we will be stopped from criticism of the European press should it hail the Chicago rioters as heroes in that they seek to break the power of the "Beef Trust" as relentless a monopoly as the Russian oligarchy. If we applaud the murder of a Russian prime minister we need not feel aggrieved or offended were the German press to hail the murder of Secretary of State John Hay as a act of Providence intended to remove the principle factor in consummating a proposed hard and fast alliance between Great Britain and the United States.

Music.

One of the magazine writers said quite recently that "the great mass of writing on musical topics is for popular perusal, with little or nothing to commend it to music lovers who have more than a rudimentary knowledge of the subject." Even a cursory perusal of the "musical columns" in most of the daily papers furnishes verification of this statement.

For this reason the appearance of two books on music written on a different plane, are welcome. Jas. Huneker has written a book of essays which he has called "Overtones; A Book of Temperaments." Some of the essays are not strictly musical but even these bear on music incidentally. Mr. Huneker is no Wagner devotee, not a bit of it. On the contrary, he is a Wagnerian iconoclast. "Parasifal" he styles "a farrago of odds and ends—a nightmare of characters and events. Wagner himself is charged 'lack of simplicity, without lucidity, without naturalness, the great anti-naturalist among composers.' The essayist is an ardent admirer

of Richard Strauss, whom he styles "The Anarch of Art" the one who "has restored to instrumental music its rightful sovereignty, threatened by Wagnerian cohorts; he has revolutionized symphonic music breaking down its formal barriers; and has filled his tone poems with a new and diverse content." Big words these. But Huneker goes farther. He puts Strauss against the master minds of music and to award him the palm." Berlioz never dared, Liszt never invented such miracles of polyphony, a polyphony beside which Wagner's is child's play and Bach's is outwitted." It may be protested that this is extravagant but the writer has the courage of his convictions. His English is vigorous and his essay is minus the wispy wash of most latter day writers who, apparently, seek to please everybody and to offend nobody.

Louis C. Elson has written an interesting "History of American Music" in which he proclaims as his opinion that "America has made music that Europe has welcomed and esteemed." Mr. Elson thinks that the reason America has advanced but little in music is because our "national disinclination to be serious, to move slowly and to consider intrinsic worth before superficial brilliancy and material profit". Rather scathing indictment but is it not warranted? McDonnell the musical composer has sent to the public a bitter and pessimistic letter in which he resigns the professorship of music which he had held at Columbia University declaring that "the limitations of the curriculum precluded any adequate or dignified development of the study of music." Mr. McDonnell adds that "all the arts were treated equally ill and that the graduates of the university were little other than barbarians in their knowledge or appreciation of aesthetics."

Mr. McDowell should not judge all Americans by the graduates or faculty of Columbia. That institution has become saturated with the supercilious intellectual priggishness of Seth Low and the "strenuous intellectual ectosivity"—if the phrase may be permitted—of Nicholas Murray Butler who would like to go down as the "apostle of intellectual iconoclasm" There are still some sane university men in the United States, however.

Educated Mispronunciation.

Under the above caption the writer of the "Contributors' Club" in the June number of the Atlantic Monthly administers mildly sarcastic lampooning to those half-way educated persons who parade their little learning—for after all the most learned person living will admit frankly that he has just begun to drink at learning's fountain—the shame and chagrin of their less favored fellows. While this is bad enough, just as the "Contributor" says the bad breeding is accentuated when the aforesaid cultivated person falls into obvious error by reason of pronouncing a word as he prefers to have it and then insists his pronunciation is the only correct one when the dictionaries may give two or three others as equally correct and occasionally as preferable.

These literary parvenus are closely akin to the nouveau riches who attempt to dictate or re-fashion the ethics of social usage to conform to their own ideas. They are the flies in the ointment of social gatherings. They grate on the nerves of the company and their presence mars what might be a harmonious whole and an enjoyable gathering.

Such as one is cited by the "Contributor" as coolly insisting that "girl" does not rhyme with "whirl" and "pearl" and "curl". The "Contributor" administers this mild reproof; "the trick of education seems indeed to be fond of this vowel of 'care' and 'girl'. It must be a low-down trick". He goes on:

"A little more education (say in a good university) and a little less 'trick of education' would tell this lady (she is a poet, too) that the 'ir' in 'whirl' and the 'ir' in 'girl' are the same. A better ear for language, and some study of the physiology of phonetics, would show her that as a plain physical fact of vocal utterance the weak vowels become identical before 'r'. 'R' is a sort of cotton fibre sound which muffles distinctions. Assertion for assertion, by the facts of phonetics, 'girl' must rhyme with 'whirl' and 'pearl' and 'curl'. And so it does in all the poets."

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