

Chicago Times

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1888.

THE TIMES
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10 cents per line.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

kill river, the Union canal, and the Schuykill canal, all lying alongside of each other, are all one body of water, and in this city the sheet mill of the Reading Iron works, the three paper mills of the Bunting Paper company, the Consumers' Gas company, which supplies the city with gas, and other manufacturing establishments, all employing probably eight hundred hands, were obliged to shut down because of the inroads of the water. A narrow escape from a fearful wreck was made near Albany, in this county, where the Schuykill and Lehigh road crosses Maiden creek on a large wooden bridge, which was discovered to have been moved by the flood five feet out of position this morning. Hundreds of acres of corn and potatoes are under water. The river commenced falling this afternoon.

HEAVY LOSS IN BOSTON.

The Terrible Storm Caused Much Damage in the Hub and Stopped Railway Traffic.

Boston, Aug. 22.—It will be difficult to estimate the actual damage caused by the disastrous rainfall of last night. Hundreds of cellars were flooded and much property was lost that will never be alluded to in public. There are two large plants in Roxbury that suffered an aggregate loss of nearly \$50,000, and the smaller sums will increase that amount by many thousands. The Boston Belting company suffered to the extent of \$25,000. Tower's oil-cloth works were damaged \$30,000. The storm made more trouble for the New York and New England railroad than for any other line running out of Boston. The long cut through South Boston formed a complete barrier to all progress, having six feet of water in it. Not a train had left or entered the city up to noon today.

DISASTER IN THE SOUTH.

Damages Amounting to Over \$1,000,000 Occasioned Near New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 22.—The cyclone, which extended from Vermilion Bay, La., to Pascagoula, on the Mississippi sound, did the greatest damage between Bayou Teche and the Mississippi river and along the river as far up as Bayou Sara, but more or less damage was done for a distance of one hundred miles in all directions from this city. The amount of damage to crops, buildings, water-craft, etc., will aggregate \$1,000,000. Almost the entire city west of Claybourne street is still covered with water. In some places to the depth of two or three feet. The inhabitants move about in boats, and even funeral processions go in skiffs. A heavy rain fell this morning and the weather is still unsettled.

A NEGRO FIEND KILLED.

While Trying to Escape Detention for Assaulting Women, Martin Wilson Is Shot.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 22.—About a week ago a negro, Martin Wilson, criminally assaulted the young wife of another negro living near Rome, Ala., threatening to cut her throat. He fled to Rome, where his parents reside, and was pursued. He again fled toward Walton, near which place he stopped at the house of a prominent white man, about 10 o'clock at night. The lady of the house went into the yard to close the door of a hen-house, and while out and alone was seized by Wilson, who choked and attempted to assault her. She screamed loud enough to alarm the faithful farm dog, which ran to her assistance and drove the black fiend away. The woman recognized the negro and he was soon captured by a party immediately organized to pursue him. He was taken to Rome and kept under guard until yesterday morning, when he attempted to escape by running. As he fled, however, his captors fired and he fell to the ground riddled with bullets.

KILLED AN OLD MAN.

Will Pierce Shoots His Enemy's Father on Account of a Family Quarrel.

passed and said to him that he was digging on his (Forrest's) land. Pierce thereupon quit work and went home. Soon afterward Will Pierce, a brother of Ed, armed himself and came to the place where the digging had been going on, and asked Forrest's father, whom he found there, if there was to be any trouble. The old man said "No."

"Well, there will be trouble," said Pierce, and with that he shot Forrest down. While the old man was yet gasping his last breath, Pierce stabbed him twice through the heart and then coolly reloading his gun fired both

CITY SLAVE GIRLS.

Dr. Charles Gilman Smith Speaks in Strong Terms on the Female and Child Labor Question.

The Girls Who Work in Tobacco Factories Particularly Arouse His Sympathy and Pity.

He Doesn't Know Exactly How to Put a Stop to the Evil, but Makes Many Suggestions.

Mothers Who Neglect Their Children, Allowing Them to Grow Up in Ignorance, Denounced.

Every Generation Shows Physical Retrogression and the Remedy Must Come from the Women.

Dr. Charles Gilman Smith was just dismissing a patient from his State street office. "And so you are Nell Nelson, are you?" "Yes, sir."

"Well, I want to see you and have wanted for some time. Do you know that THE TIMES made me a world of trouble when it published my card in connection with the 'City Slave Girl' articles? I declare I haven't begun to hear the last of the joke yet. Every day some fellow comes in and asks me for a card and the bantering goes on in the street cars, the drug stores, the club, and wherever I happen to be. The worst of the fun comes from the ladies. Only this morning I was told that a nice old lady whose children and grandchildren I have treated said she 'didn't think Dr. Smith was that kind of a man.'"

"Well, I want to say that nothing THE TIMES has done in the last ten years has provoked the interest these slave-girl articles have. I have heard any amount of discussions, and from men, too, who I think would gladly help, along any measure calculated to benefit that class of unfortunate women. 'The girls who make my heart ache and whose condition appeals to my sympathies are the tobacco hands. Driving across Rush street bridge between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening I meet hundreds of them coming from the shops and factories along River and Kinzie streets. I can tell them with my eyes shut, for their clothes and their very hair emit the smell of tobacco. And then they are so thin and cadaverous that I can not but wonder how they manage to work as they do. I don't know whether it is the effect of the atmosphere or the absorption by the skin of the tobacco, but somehow I fancy I can always pick the girls out of a crowd by the tallow-like character of their complexion.'

"When I was in Austria I was horrified at the condition of the women among the

state and all the work devolves on the growing girl. Young women take the place of porters in the hotels, they are seen dressed in short skirts carrying hods of brick and mortar up to the builders, and besides working as teamsters, street-sweepers, haulers of water, coal, and provisions, they are harnessed to a yoke with an ox or a horse and plow the ground for the ingoing seed. It is so in the country districts of France and Germany. About the factory life I am unable to speak,

but the very topic that should be impressed on the girl's mind is, expurgated by the prudishness of the committee on textbooks. The result is our girls go to school and graduate without the knowledge they should have, the teacher depending, as she should, on the mother to instruct her, and the mother neglecting the task. By and by these girls become wives and mothers and they and their children chronic sufferers.

"Every generation shows a retrogression in the physical condition of the American woman." The remedy, I think, has got to come from the women. Styles must be changed so as to make cooking, sewing, housekeeping, and the care of children fashionable. The graded course of study in our schools must be divested of some of the present extras or extended so as to make familiar science, domestic economy, and honest housewifery optional studies.

"Girls must be trained to sew, draw, bake, mend, sweep, carve, design; they must be equipped for work and an influence brought to bear against the corporations, trusts, or firms subjecting them to overwork and unhealthy conditions. The crusade now begun only wants a little pushing to bring about a reform that the welfare of society demands."

A. H. BLACKALL.

He Doubts the Existence of the Evils, but If They Do Exist Thinks Public Opinion Should Abate Them.

TO THE EDITOR: I have occasionally seen the articles referred to in yours of the 14th inst., but have not given them thought enough to form any very decided opinion. I have thought that Little Nell might be somewhat one-sided in her method of summing up.

I take it for granted that men who conduct large factories, shops, etc., are human, and it looks to me that their best interests are best served by treating their help well. If such abuses exist to any extent there is surely law to prevent its repetition, and if not such should soon be on the statute book. Public opinion, if drawn to the abuses by the all-powerful press, should abate the evils. The criticism of the press will certainly shame the derelicts into a better frame of mind.

Labor of all kinds is regulated by the inexorable law of supply and demand. Hundreds of families in this city are crying aloud for good domestic help. Any girl competent to work in a factory can easily fit herself for household duties, and in the majority of cases find a good home, be well fed, and earn from \$3 to \$5 a week.

Is there anything about such work that is degrading? Should such occupation cause any loss of self-respect? I think not. Our legislature provides for the compulsory education of children between certain ages.

Parents who value their children's welfare do not need such a law. Some who sorely need the little money their children earn should strive their utmost to give them that great boon placed within their reach by the founders of this great republic—a good common school education. If parents and guardians will comply with this law the girls will soon help themselves. Any sensible employer will certainly insure his own interest by properly caring for his help. Some perhaps, from want of thought, have been neglectful, and I doubt not many have had their attention called to abuses already pointed out by your valuable paper, and if not your future efforts will give such publicity as will insure the poor working girl better care.

I employ some female help and pay them according to their capacity to all the position—from

What I have said is intended to regulate their labor, not to regulate their lives. The same thing is true of the working of female slaves. My theory is that most combinations are wrong, and some amount to near a conspiracy. Boycotting is wrong, and combinations often resort to it.

The emigration question is a weighty one and can not well be discussed within the present limits. Our country has always held open arms to the oppressed of all nations (except Chinese). In some cases our hospitality has been abused and it looks as if a line must be carefully drawn excluding criminals, paupers, and persons liable to become such. But the prosperity of this nation has been greatly benefited by the great mass that has sought her shores.

If women perform the same service as men it

HE USED SOLID SHOT.

The First Gun of the Democratic Campaign Fired by Thurman at Port Huron.

The Sophistries of the Protected Manufacturers and Their Political Allies Swept Away.

Why Laboring Men Above All Others Should Support the Party That Demands Tariff Reform.

PORT HURON, Mich., Aug. 22.—The first campaign gun of the nation and the state of Michigan, echoing the policies of the tickets from an authoritative source, was sounded here today. Allen G. Thurman fulfilled his promise of yesterday to "spread himself," and for an hour and a half a vast audience listened to his address, almost exclusively confined to a discussion of the tariff. Parades of visiting clubs and addresses by invited statesmen with a less than usual measure of the tomfoolery of a political celebration aroused Port Huron to its extraordinary importance for a day and the opportunity of testing its lung capacity. It was all done in earnest. In numbers the demonstration was less than expected, but there was a candor and intellectual interest in the speeches and the occasion that defied for effectual results brass bands and endless red fire. The red bandana was a never-failing source of inspiration. Tested by the experience of today it is certain that it is one of those talismans that exercise an unexplainable influence.

"And who couldn't sleep in such a comfortable, cool place?" inquired the Oakland's distinguished guest, when he appeared this morning. "Yes, I slept splendidly," he said, "and feel very well."

Judge Thurman retires and rises very late, and the hotel guests looked longingly for the distinguished guest long before he came. After breakfast he was informally introduced to a constant gathering about him. The wrecked toilets of the late voyage among the party had been repaired as well as possible without valise contents, which Detroiters had left at home.

The river, usually blue and clear, was muddy from the effects of the storm, but the yacht looked gay at the dock ready for the twelve-mile trip. At 1 o'clock she left the crowd at the hotel, the band playing spiritedly, and red bandanas and even tablecloths waving from all parts of the hotel. The yacht Roberta, with a Mount Clemens delegation, appeared as consort, firing a salute.

At Thompson's docks in St. Clair were suspended banners, one offering "those protected workers for sale at 40 cents on the dollar." Thompson has been seeking the republican congressional nomination. The banners aroused Congressman Whiting's ire. "I'll compel him to make that offer good or back out," said Whiting. "I'll offer him that now, just as well as after election." St. Clair has a history pole flaunting a democratic banner, which they claim is the highest in the state. The American ship was the whole distance in hand with her

were loaded down with people awaiting the yacht's landing. Moderate cheering greeted the candidate's appearance, and his white head was bared to the stirring wind much of the time through the route that was at once taken to the grove. There was no crowding. The city was not overrun by countless thousands, but there were probably five thousand strangers in the city. In the center of a pine grove, upon the bank of the river, a stand had been erected. It was covered by a huge flag and elaborately draped in colors. Portraits of the candidates were tacked about it in tasteful positions. Rice bouquets and bay

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"Well, there will be trouble," said Pierce, and with that he shot Forrest down. While the old man was yet gasping his last breath, Pierce stabbed him twice through the heart and then coolly reloading his gun fired both loads in the body. The murderer fled and has not yet been arrested. It is said Pierce is crazy.

A BLOODY FEUD REOPENED.

War Between Cattle and Sheep Men in Arizona Invited by Another Lynching.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Aug. 22.—The Tonto basin (Arizona) feud between the cattle and sheep men has broken out anew, and a bloody encounter is momentarily expected. A deputy sheriff and posse captured Jeff Wilson, James Stottin, and James Scott, accused of shooting several sheep-raisers in the valley, but the officers were later overpowered by forty masked men and the prisoners were lynched near by where a number of men were killed in and around Tonto basin last year. It was thought that the most desperate characters had been either lynched or, fearing swift judgment, had left the country. This lynching will doubtless renew the animosities that have heretofore existed between the stock men.

FAREWELL TO POOR "LO."

The Sioux Commissioners Leave the Standing Rock Agency for Crow Creek.

BISMARCK, D. T., Aug. 22.—At an early hour this morning the Sioux commissioners at Standing Rock boarded the steamer Rosebud and bade farewell to the thousands of Indians whose hearts of steel they failed to soften. They will next tackle the Crow Creek Indians, at which reservation they will arrive tomorrow or next day.

TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS MISSING

New York Now Has to Deal with a Mysterious Mail Robbery.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Two clerks in the registry department of the New York postoffice were opening the registered packages at 12 o'clock Friday night. In one pouch from Portland, Oregon, there were fifty packages bullet. Only forty-nine were opened, and the missing package contained \$10,000 and was for the Chemical National bank at this city. The missing package was found at once upon the loss. It is reported that the package possibly has been taken to the train at Massena. Bundles of letters were inspected but a trace could be found of the package. Supl. Phillips was busy at work today hunting for the package. The officials at Washington were notified and everything that could be suggested was done to ferret out the robbery. The mail pouch bears no evidence of having been tampered with, and whoever opened it must have been provided with a duplicate key. All the clerks have been ordered, under pain of dismissal, to say nothing about the loss. Postmaster Pearson when seen tonight said: "It is true that a package alleged to have contained \$10,000 was stolen while going through the mails. As to how or where the package was taken is as yet a mystery. The package was sent in a pouch of fifty packages of registered matter, and the loss was not discovered until the pouch reached New York."

About a year ago there was a similar disappearance of a package. Then, as now, it was sent from Portland, Oregon, to the Chemical National bank of this city. Then, as now, the amount was \$10,000. The coincidence is carried still further because the pouch was found to have been opened by a duplicate key and the robbery was not detected until the packages were counted. The thief was found to be one of the clerks in the New York office and the money was recovered.

Predictions for Illinois Today.

Fair weather, warmer temperature, with winds veering to southeasterly, is the prediction for Illinois today.

Lost Fishermen.

During the last five years 425 lives have been lost at sea among the English herring fishermen.

it is the effect of the atmosphere or the absorption by the skin of the tobacco, but somehow I fancy I can always pick the girls out of a crowd by the tallow-like character of their complexion.

"When I was in Austria I was horrified at the condition of the women among the masses of the people."

state and all the work devolves on the growing girl. Young women take the place of porters in the hotels, they are seen dressed in short skirts carrying loads of brick and mortar up to the builders, and besides working as teamsters, street-sweepers, haulers of water, yoke and provisions, they are harnessed to a coal with an ox or a horse and plow the ground for the ingoing seed. It is so in the country districts of France and Germany. About the factory life I am unable to speak, but I do know that from all this results a shocking condition of morality which would sink the nation but for the provision of the crown in the maintenance of hospitals, dispensaries, medical institutes, and houses, homes, and asylums for foundlings and unfortunate.

"Now I can't compare the conditions of our girls with those of Europe for the reason that the circumstances are not the same. We have not the vast standing armies to fight against, but just the same our men do not marry, and young women who would make good wives and nice homes if properly trained are allowed to grow up, walk alone, and battle with the world for a living. It's all wrong that these shops and factories should be crowded with our girls."

"What's to be done?"

"I don't know. I have asked myself that question time and again, but the answer does not come. I suppose the miserable wages paid female labor is regulated largely by the supply. Girls who, without being well off, do not need to go out to work and prefer to suffer inconveniences, indignities, and hardship for the extra pocket money they can earn have something to do with the decline in the valuation of woman's work. Take away all these girls who work from choice and I think the really needy workers would by virtue of their number be able to command a fair return for their labor."

"What will they do?"

"A thousand things. Let them forego some of the foolish vanities of life and elevate the home. They can teach younger brothers and sisters; they can make the quilts and comfortable for the house and the shirts and underwear for the family; they can learn dressmaking and hatmaking and very many things to lessen their own expenses. These lazy women who do not have a real wife and mother within a few miles of them can bring about any reform they choose. Suppose instead of buying skirts and blouses, the shop-keeper has made for 10 cents a dozen they pay a sewing woman \$1.25 a day to come to the house. What then? Why, the women who can afford to do so can very soon help the hands in the underwear factories, to help themselves. They did that very thing twenty years ago and we had no such condition of white slavery as now."

"But the mothers are such—such—"

"Fools. Yes, fools. Just that. They let their girls grow up in a condition of ignorance that is simply appalling to the profession. I declare I don't know what to make of it, and things are getting worse. Young girls who need not only counsel but care go about in tight dresses and lighter corsets year in and year out. Nothing is thought of their plunge in cold water, of their thin shoes, of wet feet, of exposure to the night air, to cold weather, and bad associates. They are allowed to dance all night, to eat all sorts of stuff at all hours and seasons; coughs are neglected and habits that can not but result in injury go unchecked. There are plenty of journals which put in the hands of a young woman would save many a case of invalidism, but how to get them before the youth is a problem. The schools teach physiology,

thought, have been neglected, and I doubt not many have had their attention called to abuses already pointed out by your valuable paper, and if not your future efforts will give such publicity as will insure the poor working girl better care."

"I employ some female help and pay them according to their capacity to fill the position—properly."

"Usually the position is filled by a woman who is not fit to fill it."

edge of the working of trades unions. The theory is that most combinations are wrong, and some amount to near a conspiracy. Boycotting is wrong, and combinations often resort to it."

The emigration question is a weighty one and can not well be discussed within the present limits. Our country has always held open arms to the oppressed of all nations (except Chinese). In some cases our hospitality has been abused and it looks as if a line must be carefully drawn excluding criminals, paupers, and persons liable to become such. But the prosperity of this nation has been greatly benefited by the great mass that has sought her shores."

If women perform the same service as men it would look as if they should receive the same pay."

Manual training schools are excellent and so are cooking and sewing and all such institutions. All labor should stand on the same footing, whether domestic or foreign. Those that come here in good faith should be treated in all respects the same as natives."

Are not the wages in many lines of professed manufacturing and mining industries out of all proportion to the profits of the employers? This is a question I am not well enough informed on to give you an answer. I can only say I believe in protection to American labor in the broadest sense, and with regard to any surplus in the treasury the great American politician is equal to the emergency, and that he can find ways to redistribute it I do not doubt. Respectfully yours, A. H. BLACKBELL.

WHEAT BADLY DAMAGED.

Oliver Dalrymple, the Big Dakota Farmer, Says Grain Is in a Bad Condition.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 22.—Being asked about frosted wheat, a prominent grain shipper said today that the farmers who had reported their wheat unimpaired by frost were possibly a trifle previous. He had himself examined some frosted wheat just thrashed, which then seemed all right, but after standing a few hours the effect of the frost was plainly evident. He said the wheat injured by frost was only found in spots, but by the careless mixing of such wheat with sound grain the value of the product of a much larger area would be affected.

Oliver Dalrymple, the bozozona farmer of Dakota, said today: "Winter wheat has been greatly damaged by early frosts and the crop will be short. Farmers will do well to hold their wheat just as long as possible, for it will be worth \$1 a bushel before long. There will be a short crop in Europe and that, with the deficiency here, will raise wheat to a high figure."

An Aberdeen (Dakota) dispatch says: "The first ear of new wheat for the season was shipped from this city today. It graded No. 1 northern and brought 60 cents a bushel, which is 13 cents above the price paid last year. Thrashing in this section is well along and the wheat is coming in fast."

DAKOTA REPUBLICANS.

Prospect of a Long Deadlock in the Water-town Congressional Convention.

At the Water-town convention the republicans and national convention to nominate a congressional candidate. The republicans are divided into two camps. One camp is headed by Mr. Allen, chairman of the territorial committee with all the delegates present. For temporary chairman the supporters of Delegate Gifford nominated John D. Bennett of Clark, and the central Dakota men representing the field. C. H. Howard of Redfield, J. H. Patton of Minner and S. C. Nash were also nominated. The first ballot resulted: Howard, 244; Bennett, 196; Patton, 33; Nash, 21. Second ballot: Nash, 246; Bennett 242 and Nash was declared elected. The convention then adjourned until this evening. While the field thus defeats Gifford in the temporary organization it has united upon no candidate and prospects are bright for a long deadlock.

Board of Education.

The board of education met last evening. Mr. Forch moved to approve the petition of the board on June 22, when teachers for the ensuing year were elected. He wanted the motion defeated, as he and Mr. Fernald claimed that the new board should make the appointments. The vote on the motion resulted: Yeas, Brennan, Doolittle, Nettelhorst, Herley, Beale, and Sundell. Nays, Forch and Fernald. The motion was declared lost, the yeas not constituting a majority of the board. The decision was afterward changed, as the resolution called for no expenditure of money.

The committee on school sites made a report recommending the purchase of 100 by 150 feet on the corner of Brown and Taylor streets, improved, for \$7,000, and the report was concurred in by the board. A large amount of supplies for use of the schools was ordered purchased. The soft-coal contract was laid over until the next meeting.

good or back out," said Whiting. "I'll offer him that now, just as well as after election." St. Clair has a history pole flaunting a democratic banner, which they claim is the highest in the state. The American flag is the whole distance from the flag to the flag.

were loaded down with people awaiting the youth's landing. Moderate cheering greeted the candidate's appearance, and his white head was bared to the stirring wind much of the time through the route that was at once taken to the grove. There was no crowding. The city was not overrun by countless thousands, but there were probably five thousand strangers in the city. In the center of a pine grove, upon the bank of the river, a stand had been erected. It was covered by a huge flag and elaborately draped in colors. Portraits of the candidates were tacked about it in tasty positions. Pine boughs and bandanas topped its peaks and a huge broom over all typified the democratic assurance of the final victory.

When the four-in-hand carriage conveying Judge Thurman arrived he was enthusiastically received. Mayor O'Neill presided with commendable brevity and point in address, and the old Roman stood before a mass of upturned faces, waving bandanas, and enveloped in the sounds of shouts. The old man's face looked rugged and his eyes bright. A Prince Albert coat was buttoned closely about him and a silk cap shielded his head from the wind. The right-hand hanger twirled spectacles hanging by a heavy braid, and the left grasped several sheets of letter-head paper filled with carefully written and arranged notes. The voice that uttered the first words was slightly husky, but a dozen sentences cleared it to a volume that was far-reaching and clear. For an hour its force held well, but it began to fail him during the close. When he touched the Chinese question Congressman Outhwaite was called upon to read a portion of his speech delivered in Cincinnati in 1870. At its close the speaker resumed his address, holding it well to the end. A Columbus correspondent said that the speaker's voice was at no time at its best, and that recently at home he had spoken with remarkable strength. The voyage the night previous gave him a slight cold. The speaker's other physical powers stood the long ordeal with no signs of weakening. Judge Thurman had evidently clearly prepared himself. His logic was never lost and his diction was clear and impressive. When he denied "any man who has a regard for truth to say Cleveland has not made a good president" he threw his whole force into it, and the applause that came was only excelled for some time by the cries of "Dickinson," and the greeting that followed his reference to the president's noble band of counselors.

A strong man, with a powerful build, and a face which would not be questioned and continually disturbed one section of the audience by her loudly repeated complaints and application of the speaker's remarks to her own case. When the speaker's hands in people's pockets, the speaker said, referring to the republican argument that this makes people rich, "Isn't that a queer way to make men rich?" inquired the speaker. "Yes, sir; that is," cried out the female character, "that's just what some dirty rascal has done to me." The judge joined in the universal laughter at the pointed application.

A titter started when the pretty mild snuff-box was taken from his pocket by the speaker. It was a shout when he rubbed his pinched thumb and finger at the usual snuff-taking place. The assertion that the speaker had voted to remove the tax upon quinine indicated by the rousing approbation that the audience was unanimously malarious. While speaking very soberly and earnestly, the judge's right hand drew from a rear pocket a carefully folded bandana. It was faded with repeated washings. He shook it slightly loose, and as he blew his nose vigorously there was a shout. Removing the political emblem suddenly he held it in his expectant hand and gazed about with a blank look of inquiry that was funny. Suddenly he discovered the handkerchief in his hand, and remarked: "Well, that's a good honest handkerchief anyway. I might have brought it with me if it hadn't been for the tax." The speaker's forcible use of the phrase "honest" words