

LAMENT OF THE "BOSS" PRINTER.

BY GEORGE T. EDY.

All "out of sorts" with a terrible frown, The old "boss" printer sat himself down. Things had gone wrong, nothing going right, From morn to morning till sit at night.

First, to begin with, he didn't feel well, And watched things in "blacks," or—guess I won't tell;

Which was caused, I've no doubt, from his indigestion.

Woe to the "comp" who asked him a question.

He had lost a good "job" just two days before From a first-class good customer of a year or more.

Should he, in the "pox," had offered to do it For considerable less, and he couldn't do it through it?

He had figured his paper clear down to "cost," Remastered the type to see what Jones lost; What was the price of paper at a mere "token," And finally gave up, contented he had lost.

Just then from the press-room came the bad news To make things more pleasant, and add to the "blues."

The "boss" feeders are generally "rippers," Had got his thumb mashed by one of the "rippers," He is scarce out of sight, and his "form" lost to view.

Before it comes a patroon in a terrible stew;

"Please, sir, you printed are short over one hundred;

I either am swindled, or else you have blundered."

A cold climate now supplies this deficiency to some degree; it compels the cultivation of industrial habitation by reducing the sluggish to the alternative of death or labor—rather hard labor, where remunerative work is monopolized by non-sluggards.

Cold weather, therefore, is a guarantee against laziness; but a rarely considered question is this: Who is the better for it, except those who would work anywhere, and might work to the last hour in the most abominable climate? Are the lower classes not compelled to fight the battle of life under a disadvantage? Experience may secure them against the fear of utter defeat in that battle; their labor may enable them to survive winter after winter, and make both ends meet; but does it enable them to make any progress—in the direction of happiness? Constant drudgery prevents, indeed, the indulgence of vicious tastes, but we must not forget that it still more effectively prevents the development of the noblest faculties of the human mind. Ten hours of factory work, followed by two or three hours of domestic labor, may not leave much time for the gratification of an ugly habit, but it is certain that they leave even less time for the cultivation of a fine talent. Our ethical systems—mixtures of Puritan and mercantile principles—make us liable to forget that labor is a blessing only as a means to something better, but not as the end of existence.

I must consider the way in which we (in Massachusetts) spend our lives," says Henry Thoreau. "This world of business. What infinite trouble I am awakened almost every night by the panting of the locomotive. It interrupts my dreams. There is no Sabbath. It would be glorious to see mankind at leisure for once. It is nothing but work, work, work. I cannot easily buy a blank book to write thoughts in; they are commonly ruled for dollars and cents. An Irishman, seeing me making a minute in the fields, took it for granted that I was calculating my wages. If a man was tossed out of a window when an infant, and so made a cripple for life, or scared out of his mind by the noise of a gun, he would be regarded chiefly because he was thus prepared for business! I think that there is nothing, not even crime, more opposed to philosophy, aye, to life itself. The world quickly heals.—*Paris Letter to New England Farmer.*

TEMPERATURE FOR SEEDS.—Seeds are more easily killed by high temperature than low. Though no seeds have been known to germinate below 37 degrees Fahrenheit, they are few exceptions, destroyed by a temperature above 108, and many kinds perish below that point. They will not germinate above 128 degrees. Most seeds will stand the heat of 140°, and the winter cold in this latitude, and wheat left for years in the Arctic region has been sown in England afterward, where it germinated freely.—*Springfield Union.*

Now, the truth is evidently this: That civilization which flourished in a temperate climate of the Mediterranean nations has been lost in the plant in the nineteenth century. We may hunt or fight in a stormy sea; so may the Sioux and the Seljuk Tartars; but painting, fiddling, preaching, the invention of labor-saving machinery, the manufacture of shirts, steel pens, newspapers, nutmegs and liberal lectures—in short, all the occupations that distinguish the civilized world from the two-legged beast are still carried on in a warm climate, only with this difference: That the inspiring warmth that once emanated from the central body of the so-called "civilized" world, in the form of Youghiogheny coal and kindling-wood. Cold, i. e., the absence of warmth, per se, is as unfavorable to the process of life as darkness or rarefied air; though a partial explanation of our modern sun-worship may be found in the circumstance that frost, like other evils, has an indirect value as an antidote; it enables us to indulge, with comparative impunity, in certain poisons which the Southland has to avoid on pain of death.

A few paragraphs ago the papers adverted to the discovery of a California emigrant who was able to "sober up" at ten minutes' notice by swallowing a heroic dose of arsenic; and more than 300 years ago Paracelsus found that the progress of a virulent and till then incurable disease could be arrested by the internal use of mercury. These remedies may be infallible, and on all that would hardly justify the assertion that sobriety and purity can only thrive on a bath of arsenic and quicksilver; and more than is precisely analogous way that a cold climate counteracts a tendency to sloth and ignorance, and mitigates the consequences of distictive abuses.

An intelligent observer, traveling slowly from the equator toward the North pole, might notice that with every degree farther north the forms of all organic life decrease in size and perfection, and he might thus arrive at a conclusion which biologists have reached by a different route, viz: That the tropics were the original home of all living things, and that only an unsuccessful struggle for existence in their active climate compelled the plants to a snowbound emigration. On their way from India to Kamtschatka, palm trees dwindle to bushrusses, arbor vitaes to juniper dwarfs, fern trees to ferns; tigers shrink to wild cats and boars to blindworms; and there seems an infinite improbability in the idea that man alone should improve under influences which stultify the monachus and the lemur.

The Arabs of Muscat and Algiers are, indeed, the most frugal and temperate men on the earth; and here is the explanation of the degenerate condition of the Southern Latin races—they are fast lives, and copy to the extent of their ability the vices of their heroic ancestors without imitating their virtues. Sickness, like every other process of organic growth and decay, proceeds rapidly, and the average duration of life in Southern Arabia, Southern Russia (province of Azof), and Northwestern Russia is, respectively, 58, 52 and 38 years.

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The palm of longevity, too, can be claimed by the natives of the winterless zone. The vital statistics of the French republic show that the greatest percentage of centenarians to a given number of inhabitants is found in the African colonies, especially in the province of Elgor (Southeastern Algiers), south of the Atlas mountains, where the Saharan element predominates, and the average duration of life in Southern Arabia, Southern Russia (province of Azof), and Northwestern Russia is, respectively, 58, 52 and 38 years.

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