

A \$4,000,000,000 BALL

IN A \$3,000,000 PALACE, WITH 4,000,000 IN THE COLD.

Forty-Five Thousand Dollar Diamonds Shine and Glisten Around a \$50,000 Fountain — Opening of Vanderbilt's Residence.

An exchange says: "Last week Cornelius Vanderbilt's new residence was opened at Newport with a ball. The palace cost \$3,000,000. More than 200 choice guests gathered around the \$50,000 fountain by the grand stairway. It is estimated that these 200 guests represented \$4,000,000,000, and if that does not entitle them to be termed the 'creme of the creme,' simmed milk ought to be good enough for most people."

The Atlanta Constitution commenting on this says:

"There is a touch of ill nature in these comments. Ours is a country for all classes, the rich and the poor, all colors and races. A billion dollar ball is just as much in keeping with the spirit of our institutions and the tone of our society as any gathering would be. It is a good thing for the people at large that the rich are pleasure seekers, and their extravagance is in many ways a blessing."

The Vanderbilt ball turned an immense sum of money loose, and it directly and indirectly benefited thousands of tradesmen and toilers. Every state in the union would be better off if it had Vanderbilts building palaces, giving balls and scattering millions of cash in every direction. This is the way to look at it."

The Richmond, Va., Star replies:

"We do not believe that a billion dollar ball is in 'keeping with the spirit of our institutions.' A billion dollar ball represents thousands of homeless and destitute people, made so by the robbery of the owners of the billion dollars. Their holdings are representative not alone of wrecked homes, but of crazed minds, despised virtues, of prisons and poorhouses, of thieves and felons. They are representative of hundreds who were well-to-do to-day and to-morrow are homeless through the scheming and rascality of those who watered and manipulated the stocks of railroads and mines and other properties, which were turned over from the hands of the many into those of a few rascals who knew the outs and ins of thievery, and often became the possessors of great properties without the expenditure of any money. No, the billion dollar ball is not in keeping with the 'spirit of our institutions,' unless cheating, stealing, and lying are in keeping with the spirit of our institutions."

"We deny most emphatically that every state in the union would be the better off for having a few Vanderbilts. For every Vanderbilt that every state should have would have to count its hundreds and thousands of idle and homeless and the few millions they turned loose would not restore those who have been robbed and ruined to their own."

"Tramps and paupers were unknown to this country until the millionaire made his appearance. With the coming of the millionaire has come the increase of crime, of tramps, of paupers, of idleness and anarchy. For many years this country moved steadily forward and the people were prosperous in the largest sense of prosperity without the presence of a single man with a million. With the coming of the millionaire have come all the ills that are known to the body politic. As the millionaire increases his wealth the people and the government have become poorer, until today we are told that but for the generous action and liberality of a few domestic and foreign millionaires our government would be without credit in foreign countries. When the government kneels at the feet of the millionaire it is no wonder that one part of the people uncover their heads and shout their praises while another and feebler part of the people are ridden over and trampled underfoot."

There is another feature of this "spirit of our institutions." About the same time that Christ was born, and lay sleeping in a manger, the shepherds had a presentment, and held a mass meeting, and started out to find relief; and that made Herod so mad that he killed all the boys under two years that he could find. While this billion dollar debauchery, one of the most profigate carousals that this nation has ever seen, unless it was a congressional orgie in a "Washington bazaar" or a presidential inauguration ball, 1,500 tramps held a mass meeting in Kansas—an other proper presentation of the "spirit of our institutions." It was a very quiet and orderly meeting, with no special provision for the debauchery of women, no parade of drunkenness; and the Arkansas river took the place of the \$50,000 fountain, the earth was the carpet and God's blue sky was the covering. These were the representatives of the producers (owners) of that three billions upon which the thieves were rioting. And congress sits idly by, while the nation is plundered, more openly than when the British red coats marched overland to burn down the capitol at Washington.—Pueblo Independent.

According to Mulhall there is just \$1,040 in money and property for every man, woman and child in this country. Now if these 200 persons who attended Vanderbilt's ball had \$4,000,000,000 then there must be 3,946,184 persons who are paupers, or a much larger number who have much less than \$1,040. In other words nearly four million paupers must exist in order that a four billion dollar ball may be given. If, as the Constitution wishes, we had a few Vanderbilts and billion dollar balls in every state what would be the result? There are 45 states. Now a few billion dollar balls would not leave a cent for the rest of

the people, as the nation's wealth is but \$70,000,000,000. It is easy to see from this that the Constitution did not know what it was talking about. There are many more people who believe millionaires can be made without making paupers. It can't be done. There is not enough money and property to enable a man to get a million dollars."

Now man every honestly made \$1,000. Many persons must be robbed to enable a man to get a million dollars."

Here is the pace. There is \$1,000 per capita. To make \$10,000 one must make 10 paupers; to make \$100,000, 100 paupers must be made; to accumulate \$1,000,000 necessitates the reduction of 1,000 persons to beggary. This rule is as inexorable as the laws of nature. Two men can not own the same dollar at the same time. Mrs. Vanderbilt wears a diamond worth \$45,000. The annual report of the coroner of New York shows that 4,500 women are buried in potter's field every year. If there were not 4,500 paupers Mrs. Vanderbilt could not wear a \$45,000 diamond.

But we have overlooked something—production. If a man produce a million dollars he has not made one pauper and would certainly be a blessing to any community. But how much of the wealth of this country is in the hands of those who produced it? Practically none. The farmers of the agricultural states have produced billions of dollars worth of agricultural products in the last 25 years and are poorer to-day than they were in 1874. The same is true of all other productive industries. Millions of dollars are only aggregated into the hands of one person by robbery—railway robbery, Standard Oil trust robbery, national bank robbery, interest robbery, rent robbery, and other robberies too numerous to mention.

Some day the people will have sense enough to stop this, but how long will it take the people to see these things? Come now, old boy, get a wiggle on yourself and help us along. Are you doing your share? If not, try and do it. Be a man or get out of the way.

WAYLAND'S WAILS.

Paragraphs Clipped from "Appeal to Reason."

The most disreputable, scoundrelly occupation that man can be engaged in, is that of pulling strings to place himself in office. To wish a party to succeed because it represents certain ideas is right, but to scheme to put himself forward is the action of just what I have called him.

The common people get punished for doing the very things in a small way that the office-holders and monopolists do daily on a gigantic scale. Just as kings and nobles could kill, rob and outrage womanhood by wholesale, but for doing which the common people were executed. The present state of affairs in the United States is just the old state of oppression in another form.

Newspaper postage is to be increased to 8 cents a pound instead of one, if congressmen dare do it. Like the tax on whisky, it will aid the big dailies that are almost wholly carried by express companies, and the county papers are free inside the county. This 8 cent rate is the English standard. Anything to ape England and prevent the people from getting any benefit out of the government. Millions for wholesale murder, but not a dollar for the intelligence or benefit of the people.

The poor farmers feed the world, yet go ragged, live in poor houses and are in want.

The fabric workers clothe the world, yet are ragged, hungry and houseless.

The builders shelter the world, yet are houseless, ragged and hungry.

The people who furnish none of these have abundance of them and the many vote for the system that produces these effects and are too silly to see the cheat.

We are solemnly informed by the bankers that the withdrawal of \$100,000,000 in gold and locking it up for the bonds will cause a stringency! And we are solemnly told the government must get that gold and lock it up or the nation will go to the demotion bow-wow! A case of heads the country loses and tails the bankers win. And men who dress well, eat three times a day, who can read and write, gulp both these statements down without salt! We are surely the greatest, wisest people on earth!

Why do you hug poverty so? Are poverty and want and anxiety so sweet you will not give up your silly notions about private property to rid yourself of them? You see if all the property were public no one could draw an income from it unless they worked. It would have no rent roll, deeds of trust, mortgages, interest, etc., to get hold of and live in luxury on. Not but more than the postoffice or the public streets. Under such a system work would be provided for all and if they would not work they could starve. Houses better than 99 men out of 100 now live in could be had for \$100 a year if the wages were \$1,000. If you don't like poverty why the deuce do you vote for it?

Secretary of Agriculture Morton is not distributing any seeds this year, and the assets of some of our congressmen who have been selling their portion to seed vendors will be cut down by that much, while the constituents of other congressmen who have been receiving them will also be losers. Things have come to pretty pass when nothing can be put in sight of our congressmen; or in their care, that they won't steal.

Tillman's courage will inspire others. The end is not yet.

DEAD STATESMAN.

COME HIGH AND CONGRESS REFUSES TO CHEAPEN.

Funerals and Obituaries — Senate and House Decline to Omit Them — Growth of the Scandal — Commissary Supplies — Some Recent Extravagances.

(Special Correspondence Globe-Democrat.)

Washington.—Senator Peffer has 500 newspaper comments on his congressional funeral bill. Not one of these comments is unfavorable. The bill has come before the senate three times and been sidetracked three times on parliamentary pretexts. It will never pass. Statesmen cling to their perquisites, in death as in life. Congressional eulogies are as farcical as congressional funerals are scandalous. In the house a few days ago a heroic effort was made to do away with the congressional eulogies. It commanded just thirty-one votes. Those voting in the negative numbered 130. This division took place on the heels of a statement from the former chairman of the committee on printing that in a single congress the bill for printing eulogies of deceased members had cost over \$100,000. The house had a funny time in discussing the proposed resolution.

Mr. Lacey, of Iowa, told of a constituent who had written asking for "some memorial addresses, because, as he said, there was nothing he read with so much pleasure as the obituaries of congressmen." (Laughter.)

"The whole country is about in the same mind," commented Mr. Walker, of Massachusetts, and there was another roar of great laughter.

Mr. Curtis, of New York, told how one of these memorial addresses "had transformed a venerable bachelor of mature years into a married man with wife and many children. (Laughter.) I need hardly say that this account of the deceased member somewhat disturbed his friends at home, who had always supposed that their distinguished representative at Washington had pursued an entirely different course of life." (Great laughter.)

Having had their jokes, the statesmen voted down the proposition to stop delivering eulogies to empty seats and endorsed the continued printing of them, with steel-plate engravings, in somber-colored books, at a cost of \$50,000 or thereabouts annually.

The eulogies will be delivered and the funerals will go on after the old plan. It has cost us up to date over \$100,000 to bury dead senators. Senator Peffer's bill does not propose that senatorial deaths shall be ignored. It provides that when a senator or representative dies at Washington, the branch of which he is a member shall appoint a committee "to properly prepare and incase the body of the deceased and forward it to a sergeant-at-arms to the home of the deceased and deliver it to his family or to his relatives." This is to be done at government expense, but "no action or proceeding requiring the expenditure of public money other than is herein provided for, shall be taken." This is the proposed legislation which the press so unanimously indorses. Senator Hawley of Connecticut, Senator Mills of Texas, Senator Faulkner of West Virginia and Senator Mitchell of Oregon have in turn found parliamentary objections which have prevented a vote on the bill. Doubtless some other senators will be ready the next time the bill comes up as "unfinished business" to shunt it out of the way. One day the bill was to be considered at 2 o'clock. That day the senate adjourned at 1:48.

Where Senator Peffer finds an unanswerable argument is in the growing extravagance in attending these funerals. Up to 1847 there had been forty-eight deaths of senators, and in only eleven of these cases was the senate called out to spend any money. When senators died at their homes or during a recess of the senate, it was not deemed necessary for the government to turn out. Now, however, no senatorial death is allowed to escape the contingent fund. Down to 1847 no senatorial funeral cost as much as \$1,000. Since 1877 every senator but one who has died has been buried at government expense. It is perhaps worthy of mention that the last senatorial death before 1877 which did not cost the government anything was that of Lewis V. Bogy of Missouri. Mrs. Leland Stanford did not permit the senate to pay any of the bills of her husband's funeral, but the Hearst obsequies cost the government \$21,322.55.

Some of the more recent congressional funerals illustrate the elasticity of the expense accounts. When Representative Houk of Ohio dropped dead during the last congress, he was given a casket that cost \$350, to which was added a copper lining at a cost of \$100 more. A brief grave and a marble slab were put in by the thrifty cemetery management in Ohio. It cost \$937.24 to take the committee from Washington to Dayton and back, and to feed them en route. When these bills were audited it was found necessary to disburse in addition \$74.60 for meals en route. Dayton is about fifteen hours from Washington. The committee was evidently composed of good feeders.

Another recent congressional funeral was that of Representative Chipman, whose body was taken to Detroit. There are a few of the queer items in the Chipman funeral account:

One-half dozen glasses	\$18
Six professional bearers	18
Shaving	5
Pall-bearers' invitations	5
Canopy at grave	10
Soloist and male quartet	35
Four clergymen's fees	40
Choir and organist	40

Mr. Chipman was put into a \$500 casket and taken to Detroit in a special car at a cost of \$669.39. The committee that went with the casket spent \$492.51 for Pullman berths and "commissary supplies," \$145.75 for "rooms, board, porters' fees and transportation"—another case of healthy appetites on a sad errand.

Here is a compilation which shows how the scandal has been developing, and in which is found the inspiration for the Peffer bill:

Deaths of representatives during the years 1890 to 1894 inclusive numbered.....	21
Their obsequies cost the government a total of.....	\$26,792.67
An average of.....	1,275.84
During the same four years eleven senators died, and the average expense of their funeral ceremonies was.....	4,542.02
Total for senate.....	\$49,962.22
Total for last two congresses.....	\$76,758.89

The first senatorial funeral at which government expense was incurred was that of Francis Malbone of Rhode Island. Among the items charged to the contingent fund in connection with the funeral of Senator Malbone were:

Sixteen pounds of crackers.....	\$3.00
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Eleven and a quarter pounds of cheese.....	2.81
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It appears from the record that the committee to audit and control the contingent expenses allowed the item for crackers but rejected the bill for cheese.

Senator Peffer had his attention called to the congressional funeral scandal when he, as chairman of the committee, was called upon to look over and approve the bills for the funeral of his colleague, Senator Plumb. He cut down one charge of \$500 to \$150. But even after the scrutiny which the senator gave the items the total was \$3,082.75. This was more than \$1,000 less than the average for the last ten senatorial funerals, but it was "equal to the estimated value of an average American farm," as Senator Peffer puts it. In the funeral expenses of Senator Plumb, paid by the senate, it appears that after paying \$400 for a casket and \$55 for embalming the body in Washington, the committee employed another undertaker at Kansas to re-embalm the body and to attend it two days, for which \$150 was paid. The sashes bought for the twelve members of the committee to wear cost \$46.48. It appears that after reaching Emporia the members of the committee scattered in various directions to their homes, and then put in individual bills for what they spent in getting back to Washington by various roundabout ways. "Commissary supplies en route" for those twelve gentlemen cost \$163.41.

"Commissary supplies" cover a multitude of expensive habits. In the old contingent expense accounts of congressional funerals were found wine, brandy, cognac, almonds, raisins, syrup, soda water and so on. These items never appear now. "Commissary supplies" sounds better. When congress footed the bill for the nation's hospitality to Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, one item in the official expense account was:

Champagne, sherry, madeira, postage, cigars, lemonade, bar bill, washing, medicine, post office stamps, portage, and messengers, hack hire paid at different times, telegrams, sugar, brandy and whisky in room, porter and ale, envelopes, barber's bill.....	\$658.82
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Brandy and whisky were called "brandy and whisky" in those days, and not "commissary supplies."

One curious discovery, resulting from Senator Peffer's industrious investigation is the fact that distance usually has little to do with the cost of a congressional funeral. Senator Plumb was buried at Emporia, Kan., and Senator Kenna at Charleston, W. Va. Emporia is more than 1,000 miles west of Charleston. Senator Kenna's funeral cost \$34.75 more than Senator Plumb's.

"Commissary supplies, meals and lunches" for the Kenna funeral cost \$422.48—about three times the cost of the same for the trip from Washington to Emporia. Charleston, W. Va., is eleven hours' ride from Washington. Besides this \$432.48 for "commissary supplies, meals and lunches" on the Kenna funeral trip, there was a charge of \$76.50 for room and board while at Charleston. A Washington undertaker went on the trip and received \$45 for his funeral services, while the Charleston undertaker got \$56 more for his funeral expenses. The two items already mentioned for "commissary supplies" and for "room and board," aggregating over \$500, do not include \$29.75 for breakfast at an eating station en route. The car which carried the body of Senator Kenna was draped at a cost of \$55.

"Besides, undertakers, florists and hotelkeepers all perform their work and make their charges on the same grand scale," Senator Peffer observes.

How little distance figures in the expense accounts is shown by two senatorial funerals. The bodies of Senator Miller and Senator Hearst were taken to California. Senator Miller's funeral cost \$3,532.34. Senator Hearst's cost \$21,322.55. Senator Vance was buried in North Carolina, a little more than a day's ride from Washington, but the expense account was \$4,438.66.

The first senatorial funeral that cost over \$1,500 was that of Senator John C. Calhoun, for whose interment in South Carolina the government paid \$3,106.47. That same year the contingent expense account was drawn on for another senatorial funeral in South Carolina, and the amount was only \$1,726.10. The very next senatorial funeral was Henry Clay's. It cost the senate \$5,447.02. The minuteness with which the general accounts are kept is striking. No pennies escape. In the case of Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, the items

charged to the contingent fund amounted to \$4,687.99. Not in so much as a single cent was the government wronged.

The funeral of Senator Hearst leads all others in costliness. Henry Clay's comes next, and after that is Charles Sumner's. Senator Beck's body was taken to Kentucky at a cost of \$4,453.45.

The custom of drawing on the contingent funds for funerals of statesmen began, as already stated, with cases where deaths occurred at Washington when congress was sitting.

It now extends to senators and representatives wherever they die.

The last senatorial death was that of Senator Stockbridge of Michigan, which occurred at the senator's home.

A committee of senators was appointed and sent to the funeral at a cost of \$1,171.92.

Representative Myron B. Wright died during recess in the last congress.