

THE MAIL

A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE.

Town-Talk.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE TRAMPS?

The time of the year has come around again when the tramp question begins to assume unpleasant prominence as a social problem. Though tramps in this part of the country are at present by no means as numerous as they were twelve months ago, it is not unreasonable to expect that the number will increase as the weather grows colder, and that before the winter is over they will be as troublesome and as plenty as in any former year. The tramp nuisance, as a feature of American life, is a thing of recent birth. It has grown into its present formidable proportions almost within three years. Many persons believe that with the return of better times, like other evils, will fade out of existence and that its decline will be as rapid as its growth has been. Others, less sanguine, fear that the malady has already become chronic and that vagabondage is henceforth to be a perpetual national disorder from which no relief is to be hoped for or expected.

Which of these views is the correct one it is not the province of T. T. to decide. He can only repeat town talk and leave his readers to draw their own conclusions. The present question is, What shall be done with the tramps that come here? How are they to be received?

By talking with various worthy citizens upon the general subject of tramps, T. T. has, during the week, obtained a variety of information bearing upon these questions; and though the opinions vary, as it was natural they should, he ventures to say that the thoughtful reader will be able to gather from them some healthy grains of common sense. They are given below without further preface:

MR. BOUNDERBY'S VIEWS.

"Oh, yes; Mr. Bounderby had been bothered to death with them. There wasn't a day that from one to a half dozen didn't come to his office begging money, or work, or old clothes, or something."

He found the easiest way to get rid of them was just to tell them to get out—he'd nothing for them; and if they didn't move lively to move them with a number 9 boot. They were, in Bounderby's opinion, an unmitigated nuisance and he didn't propose to let them annoy him more than was necessary. He believed they might all get work if they wanted it, but that they preferred begging. He wasn't going to encourage it. Did he believe it a good idea for the city to provide food and lodging for such as would do work enough to pay for it? No. He didn't believe the city had any business doing anything of the kind. The city should treat them just as he did—tell 'em to clear out! They soon got enough of him, and they'd soon get enough of the city."

MR. MURDSTONE'S OPINION.

Mr. Murdstone deeply sympathized with the poor creatures. His heart bled for them. He thought it the duty of people who were rich to give to them liberally and God would bless cheerful givers. He was a poor man himself and his trip east this summer had been expensive and he really couldn't afford to contribute much himself, but those who could afford it ought, he thought, to do so voluntarily. He was opposed to the city doing anything for them because that would increase taxes and taxes were already high enough—too high, in fact, and the council had no right to be building a work house or going to any such expense as that would involve. If the people who were able would only give as they ought there'd be no necessity of anybody else worrying themselves. Perhaps it wasn't pleasant to have them coming to his house at all times of the day and night after something to eat or wear or some place to sleep, but then he thought if one was in the habit of telling them kindly but firmly that he had nothing for them, the tramps finally got to know that house and afterwards avoid it.

MISS BETSEY TROTWOOD'S IDEA.

It was Miss Betsey's opinion that tramps were the worst nuisance in creation. They came to her house by the dozen every day and the way some of them could eat was just a caution. They were good-natured fellows though generally, and did any little work she might have for them to do cheerfully and well. What she objected to most was, that they most always came after she had washed up the dishes and the coffee had gotten cold. She didn't like the idea of having to kindle up a dozen extra fires every day. Did she think it a good idea for the city to take care of them? Well, she didn't know about that. She supposed it was; but what was the use of the city making them break stone? It would look a good deal more like Christian charity if the city would give them what it had to give without requiring the poor, tired fellows to blister their hands breaking stone. Yes, tramps were an awful nuisance!"

MR. GADGRIND'S THEORY.

"Tramps!" said Mr. Gadgrind, "don't say tramps to me. If I had my way about it there'd be a whipping post put up at every corner and every tramp caught should be flogged till he'd had enough of tramping. Why, sir, no mercy should be shown them! Aren't they a disgrace to the country? Don't they go up and down breaking into houses, stealing everything they can lay hands on, insulting women, setting stables on fire and committing every

other crime you can think of? Aren't they dirty, filthy, diseased and an eyesore to decent people? And yet a lot of sentimental idiots in the city council will go and offer a premium for these lazy hounds to come here. Offer to feed and lodge them as long as they like to stay on consideration that they will sit together for an hour or two under a comfortable shed and break up a few pieces of stone, while they are talking over other matters and perhaps fixing up a plan to rob somebody at night. It's a shame, sir, and I'm going to protest against it in a way that will be heard. I'm not going to pay taxes for any such purpose!"

MR. STEPHEN BLACKPOOL.

"Mr. Blackpool didn't know that he had any views on the subject of tramps that would be of special interest to anybody. He was a poor man and didn't know how soon he might be a tramp himself. It seemed to him though that the unfortunate poor were the least to blame for the existence of tramps. Tramps had been to his house—were there every day for that matter—and he could truly say that to his knowledge none had ever gone away hungry. More than that they never should while he had a crust to share with them. As to the work house project, he thought it would be much better if the city would hire the men at a fixed price when they applied for work, and let them get lodgings and something to eat with the money obtained from their work, where they pleased. Perhaps there might be some law to prevent the city from improving a street in any other manner than by advertising and letting the contract to the lowest bidder—he did not know—but if there was such a law it ought to be repealed. Work is to be done on several streets this winter. He thought it would be better for the city and better for the tramps if the city would do it and employ all the men who applied for work to work at it, paying them small wages, say one dollar a day or less, and letting them spend the money where and how they liked. Men would not be paupers if they had the choice of being independent laboring men. He thought there would be tramps as long as work was scarce and no longer."

The above will show the tenor of the talk concerning the tramp. T. T. is after a tramp now who will make a statement of his side of the question, and the result may be looked for at some future time not far distant.

People and Things.

It was Adam who first set the fall trade going.

"Brace up and show your collar outon!" is the latest slang.

"No flowers" is appended to a funeral notice in a New York paper.

The Millerites, of Michigan, are preparing for another upward excursion.

A lawyer may be said to work like a heron when he draws a conveyance.

"Psychopathy, or the art of spiritual healing," must not be read "sick-opathy."

One effect of the hard times in England is an effort to lengthen the hours of labor.

Gladstone thinks that ministers are likely to remain the poorest paid of laborers.

Prof. Proctor says scientists are the least credulous of men, with the possible exceptions of lawyers.

No man can become thoroughly acquainted with his family history without running for office.

Jersey justice is tempered with mercy. They occasionally serve up apple dumplings to inmates of the Trenton State Prison.

Tilden is worth five millions. And yet there are people who cannot be made to believe he is worth a cent—for President.

"Never knock under." No, it is better not to knock when you are under, for the fellow that is on top may knock you all the harder, you know.

New Orleans Bulletin: She will sit all day at the sewing machine tucking that new dress petticoat, while her husband's shirts in the drawer haven't got a button on them.

Nobody likes to be nobody; but everybody is pleased to think himself somebody; but when anybody thinks himself to be somebody, he generally thinks everybody else is nobody.

George Cruikshank, aged 84 years touches nothing but water.—Exchange. How the Dickens does he button his suspenders, and his shirt-collar, and so forth?—[Norristown Herald.

An Irishman who wanted a divorce from his wife, who had deserted him on account of his poverty, was asked by his lawyer if it was a case of incompatibility. "No," said Pat, "it was a case of want of income-Pat-ability."

Sometimes it doesn't pay to deed your property to your wife in order that you may not be responsible for debts. A New York wife, with \$100,000 in her name, has taken it over to another man, leaving her husband imprisoned on some trivial charge for want of \$3,000 bail. There's an awful warning for husbands in this thing.

When General Sherman got off the train at Virginia City a colored man pushed his way forward and said: "Let me touch de ole man's flesh!" at the same time reaching forward a huge fist, which General Sherman heartily shook, and addressed the darky as "old friend." "By de good Lord, dar's the Savior ob us niggers!" said another, who proposed three cheers, which were heartily given.

The approach of cold weather is an admonisher in many ways. It teaches us that the harvest is passed, the summer ended, and suggests the inquiry whether or not we have laid up any treasures. It reminds us of the swift flight of time, giving emphasis to the accepted fact the places that now know we will shortly wipe us out of all further recollection. Returning cold weather also admonishes us to lay in our winter jewelry and that for that purpose there is no better establishment than that of T. H. Riddle.

We never see the word "central" in print that we don't involuntarily associate it with one of the best book stores in this or any other city, and we never see a button without thinking at once of the firm that own the Central Book Store, Messrs. Button & Hamilton. We are glad this is so, because we wish to always remember that for books, stationery, fancy notions, etc., the "Central" is the place to go. The stock is large, varied and complete, the proprietors trustworthy and obliging and the prices always as low as the lowest.

The stock of pianos, organs, and other musical instruments, as well as musical merchandise of other kinds, is at present unusually large at W. H. Paige & Co's. Persons who contemplate the purchase of anything in the line of goods mentioned and who desire to trade with a good house where the best of everything is sold, should call on the firm mentioned. Their store is on Main street, east of Sixth.

The grand fall opening at the Trimming Store has been the chief local event of the week. It began Thursday morning and is still in progress. The display of new goods is unusually fine and readers of The Mail who have not enjoyed a view should call at the Trimming Store at once. Mr. Riddle will take pleasure in showing them through.

R. W. Rippetoe's two stores are well supplied to-day with every delicacy the market affords. Call and see the finest vegetables, the finest fruit, the finest dressed poultry and the finest family groceries to be found in the city. The prices at Rippetoe's are always as low, if not lower, than at any other house. Everything promptly delivered.

Froeb & Fasig, 64 Main Street, make a specialty of good serviceable harness. Farmers are especially invited to call and examine their stock. They think they are able to offer as good bargains as can be found anywhere.

Miller & Arleth, Fourth Street between Main and Ohio continue to sell the best harness, saddles, whips, blankets, etc., to be found in the city. Every article guaranteed to be just as represented.

Go to J. P. Tutt's for Boots and Shoes.

Big Bargains in Boots and Shoes at J. P. Tutt's.

Go there. Cent Store. Fourth street.

NECK-DRESSINGS!
IN
NOVEL DESIGNS.
SEE THEM

At HUNTER'S, 157 Main St.

WE HAVE STATED THAT WE SHALL OPEN THIS FALL
AND WINTER SEASON IN

CLOTHING!

WITH A

REVOLUTION!

WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO PROVE THIS ASSERTION.

Come and see our all wool Pants guaranteed genuine in colors at \$4.00 and \$5.00, goods that cannot be found in the city less than \$6.00 or \$7.00.

We shall make to measure Pants of good Cassimere at \$6.00 and \$7.00.

Business Suits at 22.00 and \$25.00.

All we ask is a look through Prices and if we can't hold out inducements enough we are willing to stand aside.

MOSSLER'S

SQUARE-DEALING, ONE-PRICE, AND MERCHANT TAILORING HOUSE,

513 Main Street, between 5th and 6th.

HERZ

offers to the Ladies: An elegant line of Beaver Cloaks for less money than any other house in the city.

NOTICE THE FACT.

SILK GOODS OF EVERY KIND RAPIDLY ADVANCING!

FELSENHELD & JAURIET,
620 MAIN STREET.

Are selling for a few days longer a magnificent line of Black and Colored Silks, at the old low prices.

Caused by the almost complete failure of the Silk Crop in China and Japan, Raw Silk has advanced to almost double the former price, and manufactured Silks, Silk Velvets, etc., etc., are now held fully 40 per cent. higher in Lyons and Switzerland, and a still further advance is expected in the next few weeks. Having made some very fortunate purchases of Black and Colored Silks and Lyons all Silk Mantilla Velvets late in the summer, we do not hesitate to give our Customers the benefit of these favorable purchases, and therefore continue to offer them for a short time at our old low prices, which is lower than has prevailed in this section for twenty years. This is an opportunity to purchase a handsome good wearing Silk Dress, a Rich silk Velvet Cloak or Skirt, that will not occur again in eighteen months.

We are also offering the greatest bargains in Black Cashmeres ever seen in this section, and are leaving all competition far behind.

40 in. all wool Cashmeres at 57 1/2 worth 85c
40 " " " 65 " 90c
40 " " " 75 " \$1.00

Magnificent quality of 48 and 54 inch Cashmere at \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50 and 1.75 per yard, that can hardly be beat elsewhere for 35 per cent. more.

Just opened, new styles Waterproof Suitings, English and French Camels Hair Suitings and an immense variety of Flannels and Blankets, from low to finest goods made, fully 30 per cent. below last season's figures. New line Colored and Black Kids 85 cts. Fresh stock of Six Button Kids, \$2.00 per pair, former price \$3.00. Make your selections while the goods are so low and the stock so full.

CLOAKS.

Monday morning, Sept. 25th, we open five cases of BEAVER CLOAKS,

at the following low prices: Cloaks at \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00 and up to \$25.00; also a shipload of two button kids of good quality, 70c. per pair; a line of good quality six button white kids, \$1.75 per pair; hemmed and hem stitched linen handkerchiefs, 12, 15, 20 and 25 cts; new felt skirts, beaver shawls, ladies' underwear, broche shawls, Turkey, red and bleached table damasks, bed-spreads, &c. Look to your interest and do not buy before examining our magnificent assortment.

FELSENHELD & JAURIET,

25 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

GULICK & BERRY,
General Dealers in
DRUGS, WINDOW-GLASS, PAINTS,
OILS, SPICES, TRUSSES, DYES,
BRUSHES, FINE LIQUORS,
PATENT MEDICINES, ETC.

N. W. corner of Fourth and Main streets,
Opposite Opera House,
TERRE HAUTE IND
Special Agencies for Holman's Ague Pad and Swiss Ague Cure.