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 HORACE MANN,
 EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 1—1897.

VIRGINIUS AND COMPETITOR.
 Oct. 26, 1873, the American ship *Virginius*, Captain Joseph Fry, was captured off the coast of Jamaica by the Spanish cruiser, *Tornado*. The *Virginius* was charged with being on a filibustering expedition. Even in that case, however, unless those on board were captured actually with arms in their hands, they were entitled to our treaty rights with Spain to a trial in civil courts. There were 156 persons on board. Captain Fry hoisted the American flag when the cruiser chased him, but this had no effect. After the *Virginius* was captured, the Spanish soldiers from the *Tornado* spread the flag upon the *Virginius*'s deck and spat upon it and trampled upon it.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.
 The close of one year and the advent of another or *New Year*, is a season fraught with reflection on the past and meditation on the possibilities of the future. It is also a time of wise resolves, a discarding or giving up of habits, which are felt at the present time to have retarded progress in the past. For instance men make resolutions of various kinds, some of one thing, some of another, most all however tending to one result, namely, to become a little more perfect, a turning over and commencing a new leaf. Now the most of these resolves, particularly in the case of the drink habit, are such to be commended, and the maker of them, should and ought to receive the moral support and assistance of all to aid him in his efforts to keep intact his good resolve. Unfortunately, however, in many cases these resolutions are of short duration, the effort made has been merely spasmodic, all on the surface. The man has forgotten or overlooked one important fact, namely, that he has built up in his system a craving for intoxicating liquor under certain circumstances, which is difficult to overcome; the result being a warfare of the direct kind between appetite, reason and conscience. Pityful indeed does it become when appetite becomes victor in the contest. Some people are disposed to take the blame off the man for this low state and place the responsibility upon the shoulders of others. We can hardly coincide with this idea. We will admit that possibly the man found a temptation in his path, but I rather think that we must at the same time admit that the disposition or more properly the will was there waiting its opportunity. Temptation will be found on every occasion of man's efforts for self reform, good and evil are its constant companions, "The tree of Life" and "The tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil." At this point right wisdom would urge upon all those good people who have at heart the future welfare of the poor, inebriate, the work to be done in his behalf—that the use of intoxicants can be legislated out of existence, is without doubt a mistaken one. The fruits of such an idea is before us, and the result anything but a success; the only good being done, if we can use that term, is, that to a certain extent the effort made, has rendered the obtaining of liquor a little more difficult; the most important thing in the regeneration of man from this deplorable habit, so fearful and destructive as it is, has been lost sight of. To this work of regeneration, this work of "Rescuing the Perishing" we call upon all well disposed to unite. Teach and convince men that the proper, the safest place, in the saloon is outside of it. Do this, and you will without commotion, without causing any ill feelings in the community and the creating of a faction or factions, succeed in your efforts to close such places, for the very good reason that no customers are in waiting.

Good Blood
 Is essential to health. Every part of the system is reached by the blood; and on its quality the condition of every organ depends. Good blood means strong nerves, good digestion, robust health, impure blood means scrofula, dyspepsia, rheumatism, catarrh or other diseases. The surest way to have good blood is to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. This medicine purifies, vitalizes, and enriches the blood, and sends the elements of health and strength to every nerve, organ and tissue. It creates a good appetite, gives refreshing sleep and cures that tired feeling. Remember, Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best—In fact the One True Blood Purifier.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
 UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, Oregon City, Oregon, November 28rd, 1896.
 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:—Notice is hereby given that the Oregon and California Railroad Company has filed in this office a list of lands situated in the township described below, and has applied for a patent for said lands; that the same are open for the public for inspection, and a copy thereof by descriptive subdivisions, has been posted in a convenient place in this office, for the inspection of all persons interested and the public generally.

Original Supplemental List No. 51. Oregon and California Railroad Lands, Oregon, Oregon City Land District, S. 34, T. 9 S., R. 3 E.
 Within the next sixty days following the date of this notice, protests or contests against the claim of the company to any tract or subdivisions within any section or part of section, described in the list, on the ground that the same is more valuable for mineral than for agricultural purposes, will be received and noted for report to the General Land Office at Washington, D. C.
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When Church bells are rung for two solid hours, it becomes very monotonous.

Weyer still has control of the telegraph in Cuba, but the insurgents are busily engaged in fencing in Havana.

From the attempted pronunciation of the names of Maceo, Gomez and Weyer by the newspapers, a Cuban or Spaniard would be tempted to laugh, or fight. Try it again boys, you may make it after a while.

The Salem Statesman is howling about high taxes and equalization, but in connivance with the county court, secures \$500 for publishing the delinquent tax list when any other paper in the county would have been glad to have done it for \$150. This is working the hat racket with a vengeance.

No doubt every last banker who has failed since election—and there are quite a number—we can see by the shouting and forced their customers to leave by bitter experience that a contracted currency is not a good thing for even supposed rich people.

We wish to inform the "Bladder man" that people always know which side we are on; And further that we do not pat a license man on the back and go and join the Good Templars; neither are we compelled to have our jug of wine sent to some store for fear our wife will find it out.

In the litigation which the Southern Pacific is carrying on against the railroad commission of California, it is not impossible that it will find itself rudely deprived of a charter. The arrogant manner in which that company has placed itself above all law may yet react on it and in a manner that will suddenly put the people on top.

Eastern railroad managers are said to be disappointed over the unusually small volume of Christmas business. What did they expect? These very managers favored a policy in the late campaign would continue this state of affairs. Without prosperity among the people the railroads cannot prosper, and the people of the East will not be prosperous until the cause that induced the present hard times is removed. When the volume of money is increased, and silver is restored to the coinage, then railway traffic will resume its old proportions.

Shakespeare wrote Hamlet at the age of 36, and at that age Byron had ceased his great literary labors and gone hence. At 30 Clive had conquered India, and at 33 Alexander had conquered the world and was in eternal peace. Napoleon was a general at 27, and at 36 was master of Europe. At 32 Jefferson issued the Declaration of Independence, and Webster was the peer of the greatest in the land. At 27 Hamilton was the leading financier of the new world. At 25, Chaucer wrote the Canterbury Tales, and at 25, Bryan was elected to Congress, and at 25, Bryan was elected to Congress, and at 25, Bryan was elected to Congress.

The *Virginius* was towed to the Cuban city of Santiago de Cuba. There a show was made of court martial trials for the captives. Some of the single trials, however, only lasted ten minutes. Fifty-seven of the captives were sentenced to be shot November 8th. Burriel, the Spaniard who had charge of the proceedings, heard, however, that a British warship the *Niobe*, was expected at Santiago de Cuba on November 7th. He accordingly hurried up proceedings and shot in cold blood 57 of the prisoners in the public square of the town. Among them was Captain Fry. Then Burriel hurried and got himself safe off to Havana before the Englishmen came. The Spanish soldiers who executed the sentences were reported to have stuck the muzzles of their guns into the mouths of some of the prisoners and blown their heads off. In other cases the heads were cut off their bodies, fastened upon bayonets and carried through the streets of Santiago de Cuba.

In a few days the British man-of-war, *Niobe*, arrived and was joined by the American cruiser, *Junia*. Two more of our naval vessels and one from France were quickly upon the scene. Among the 57 shot were 16 who claimed to be British subjects.

The arrival of the warships checked the slaughter. Commander Braine of the *Junia* ordered the governor of the province to promise that the remaining prisoners should have a fair trial and humane treatment. Immediately, however, the promise was broken, and the men were hustled off to the dread Castle Morro, in Havana harbor, whence few prisoners ever return.

Our government at once began with Spain negotiations for the release of the remaining captives. At this time war was much more imminent than it is to day. Every peaceable known means of persuasion was used to induce Spain to surrender the prisoners. At last these were successful. Dec. 18, 1873, in a condition of filth, raggedness and wretchedness beyond description, the survivors of the tender mercies of Spanish justice were put on board the *Junia* and conveyed home to the United States.

April 21, 1896, the American schooner, *Competitor* sailed from Key West. There is nothing to show that either her captain, Alfred Laborde, or her sailing master, William Gildea, had any knowledge at the time of sailing that the vessel was to be used to transport arms and ammunition to Cuba. Off Cape Sable, the southern point of Florida, however, several loads of guns and war supplies were put on board, while the Captain and mate were both held prisoners, as it is claimed.

Then the *Competitor* steamed for Cuba. Off the Cuban coast, at Cellana, April 25, the passengers and most of the cargo were discharged. Before this was quite completed, however, a Spanish gunboat captured the vessel, her captain, mate and a number of her crew. With them was a newspaper correspondent, Ona Melton, who, however, received no immunity on that account.

The prisoners were taken on shore to the dock at Esperanza and tied up with cords. April 28 they were conveyed to Havana, and they too, were thrust into the terrible Morro castle. They had an alleged trial of court martial, for which there was no justification at all under our treaty laws with Spain, for not one of them was captured with arms in their hands.

They were sentenced to be shot. Remonstrance on the part of the American consul staid the execution. They are now in Cuban's prison, Havana. Spain will neither give them a civil trial nor release them, and she dares not kill them.

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