



CAUSE OF HARD TIMES.

Dr. J. Z. Armstrong last night, preached on the practical subject of the "Hard Times, Their Causes and the Remedy." He took up considerable time in an apology for treating such a subject from the pulpit, which was unnecessary. The clergy are citizens and moral teachers and should be interested as much in the present as the future comfort of their flock.

Dr. Armstrong did not think the hard times were caused by over-production, bad naturalization and immigration laws, nor in a vicious ballot system, but rather in "dead-consumption" or in plain English, extravagance. He claimed that the waste in consumption of articles and amusements that were useless, such as tobacco, liquor and low amusements had produced the hard times. THE MAIL cannot agree with him on this point. No known author on political economy has ever taken this view. The production and handling of these articles in the United States gives employment to many thousands and thereby food and clothing to their families thereby making a market for the food and clothing consumed, thus giving employment to labor in every branch of industry, and effecting a wider and better distribution of the wealth of the country.

The extravagance of the individual may impoverish him but it never creates a panic because to meet his extravagant wants demands the labor of the honest toiler, and what he spends goes to increase the comfort of others, and in time may drop around to pay the pew rent and aid in sustaining the church, which in this age is not above criticism for its extravagance.

It is now generally admitted that the cause of hard times is due to defective distribution. By our economic system the laborer who produces all wealth is robbed of all he produces save a scanty living. This robbery is effected mainly through interest charged for the use of credit. Every business is loaded with debt. The debt bears interest and the interest absorbs the results of labor. Our census shows the aggregate debt of all kinds in this country to be over \$30,000,000,000. The sum required to pay the annual interest on this amount will take all of the five leading products and leave a balance unpaid. The producers must be satisfied with the minor products, while the bond holders, who are few in number, get the most that is produced.

The Bancroft company, Auditorium building, Chicago, are engaged in a work deserving of more than passing notice. It is the reproduction in book form in the highest style of art, of the entire Exposition. In the Book of the

Senator Parsons will probably be a candidate for congress in this congressional district. Is Senator Parsons some Missouri man the Times in sending to Kansas?"

"In attempting to defend itself by defending the Tramp's Friend in the Kansas City Journal is making itself ridiculous. Instead of getting deeper into the mire the Journal should take its foot out with as much alacrity and grace as possible."

One Pennsylvania striker has got out of the business of beating, maiming and maiming non-union labor. A bullet from his last victim struck him. It cannot be too often repeated that the lawlessness of organized labor must cease or their orders will be written off the map. The labor leaders owe to society and good order to discourage the idea that non-union people and employers have no rights.

The good deacon who is being merrily laughed on a morning paper making a futile effort to create a political fight in the Republican family in Kansas City.

"Sweet Charity."

In the Artists' exhibition of 1894 the New York Academy of Design there was exhibited an oil painting by J. L. G. Ferris, entitled "Sweet Charity." Its richness of coloring commanded instant attention, while the lesson it taught was so impressive that one naturally returned to it for a second view.

Its subject is a young lady of the better social times who is on an errand to the poorer families of the town. She has a sensible, charming face which expresses with remarkable fidelity the sentiment of her errand. There is not a home that this charming picture will not ornament and must be seen to be appreciated.

"Sweet Charity" was purchased by the publishers of the Youth's Companion and has been reproduced in large size 14 1/2 x 21.

It will be sent to all new subscribers to the Companion who send \$1.75 for a year's subscription, and the picture also be sent free from the time the subscription is received to January 1, 1894, and for a full year from that date, to January, 1895. This offer includes the double souvenir number published at Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Address,

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION,
Boston, Mass.

Judge R. H. Fields has discovered that the law by which recorder voters hold office in this state is unconstitutional. A suit has been instituted against Recorder Owsley in Kansas City in which he is called upon to show by what legality he holds office. The technicality by which the judge expects to win the case founded upon the ground that the recorder gets pay for his work. We are not mistaken, a similar case was brought once against Mr. Hop-