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The Conquest of California by China!

Is Chinese Authority Effectually Established? Threatened Proscription of American Citizens by a League of Quacks.

The citizens of California can scarcely be conscious of the fact that the authority of officers elected by them is only nominal, and that the real power is wielded by the Chinese Emperor.

They can hardly be sensible of the fact that the edicts which govern California are issued from Peking, the Capital of the Chinese Emperor.

Yet this is a fact, and it can be demonstrated.

It is a fact that the Christian religion has been supplanted here by the Pagan form of worship.

It is a fact that the barriers which once protected the morals of our youth have been broken down.

It is a fact, proved by the testimony of eye-witnesses, that hundreds of our young men and maidens are daily decoyed into the opium dens of the coolies, there to revel in the mad visions which the use of the drug superinduces.

And the victims of these yellow traders in human frailty are to be found lying insensible in their dens—drugged to insensibility by opium.

It is a fact, too, that Josh is in the ascendant; he has contaminated the rising generation of the white race.

He has, with his carved images, ornamented the prows of our merchant marine—he is the autocrat of steamship lines trading with China.

And his assumption of the imperial purple here is only a question of time.

We roll up our eyes with holy horror at the bare suggestion of importing the Pope from Rome to America, and giving him an asylum on American soil.

But we contemplate with perfect indifference the establishment of Chinese institutions. This is a fearful commentary on our civilization.

The Medical Ring of San Francisco is a Court of Star Chamber, undisputed master of the field—worse than the Thugs of India, who bowstring their sleeping victims—meaner than the meanest blackmailer who writes anonymous letters and dare not confront his intended victim.

This ring menaces our liberties.

It affects a respectability which it never possessed.

With freezing independence it asks the Legislature of a Sovereign state to pass a law making a gang of empirics the judges of the qualifications of scholars.

It besieges the Legislature to proscribe gentlemen, to make the ring a revolutionary tribunal with unlimited power.

It besieges the Legislature to pass a law in the very teeth of the Constitution.

And this depraved ring hugs to its breast the delusion that such an enactment, if passed, would be sustained by our Courts. But the Ring, like the viper, is biting a file, and like the viper, is breaking its own fangs. This is not a movement of the people.

It is not a movement in the interests of the people.

It is a device of ignorant and illiterate impostors, who cannot get any practice in the face of the keen competition of the cultured physicians.

It is the last dying effort of an army of old fossils who, being unable to earn a subsistence by their own efforts, now seek to quarter themselves upon the public, and, like the leech, to hang upon the body politic.

The Legislature is created to make laws for the people, not for cliques or corporations, but for the great body of the people.

The Ring which brought forth this serpent's spawn does not represent the learning or talent of the medical profession.

It calls itself "The San Francisco Medical Society," but its members have no claim to the patronage or support of this Government; nor have they done anything to give them any particular claim to recognition.

They have turned out quacks; they have made a chattel of medical diplomas, but they have contributed nothing to learning or to science.

Now, as a matter of law, I assert that physicians who have practiced their profession successfully for a quarter of a century have acquired certain vested rights which the Legislature cannot take away.

The bill framed by the ring confers upon them absolute power.

The power to make poison a mercantile commodity.

The power to administer it unquestioned.

The power, therefore, to perpetrate assassinations at their own will and pleasure.

The power to fix a scale of extortionate charges for medical services.

The power to outlaw every physician who gives his services to the poor.

The power to deny the appeal of the indigent poor for medical aid.

And, finally, the power to prescribe an infamous medical formula for your prisons, your hospitals and your public asylums.

These powers are dangerous; they ought not to be conferred upon any body of men.

In the State of Nevada, which I blush to say, has legalized a medical ring, more than two thousand men have fallen victims to its tyranny. And there death gathers in his daily list of victims; there desolation is supreme, and from that stricken State there goes out to her sisters an appealing cry for pity and succor.

There are few American States which have descended to this deeper depth of infamy.

I speak not for myself alone. I have practiced medicine successfully for a quarter of a century, and can afford to defy the machinations of any ring of pretenders.

I speak for the Constitution and the right.

I speak for that class of independent gentlemen who refuse to bow the knee to any power but the Almighty.

And I request my fellow men to unite with me in a stern remonstrance against this iniquitous Ring and its debasing schemes.

The other professions are generally free from the degrading vice of envy.

A certain degree of courtesy and kindly feeling and charity exists among their members.

They even call each other *brothers*.

Notably in the profession of the law, when a member dies the Courts adjourn out of respect to his memory.

But in the medical profession envy, hatred, malice and jealousy abound.

Every man's hand is lifted against his neighbor.

We are divided up precisely at the petty social cliques are divided at all the fashionable resorts in our country.

Here is a set of vulgar snobs, and there is another little Ring or coterie equally as vulgar.

Each one affects to be the superior of the other, and all of them hate each other with mortal hatred.

Occasionally you find, at the same resort, an individual or

a family of real merit and worth who looks down with utter contempt upon all these dirty cliques and refuse to associate with any of them.

This is a vivid picture of the condition of the medical profession in this great and growing city.

Each and every one of the mean little cliques into which we are divided is black-balling and throwing mud at the other.

One of the meanest of the cliques has fallen so low as to hire a low newspaper to levy blackmail from other members of the profession.

And I say it with mortification that the scheme has been, to a certain extent, successful. The scurrilous sheet has succeeded in extorting considerable sums of money from certain practicing physicians; and this money has been divided between the editor and the parties who hired it to do the dirty work.

Gentlemen, our Legislature is about to assemble at Sacramento.

The dirty clique to which I allude is about to carry the war into the Legislature.

It proposes to use the Legislature as an instrument to crush all physicians who do not belong to this particular clique.

And for that purpose it has concocted a scheme something like the following:

1. They will ask the Legislature to pass a law creating a Board of Medical Examiners.

2. To give this Board power to examine all physicians as to their qualifications to practice medicine.

3. To give the Board power to accept or reject all persons examined before them.

4. To require every physician to present himself to the Board for examination.

5. Any physician who refuses to comply with this provision, as well as all physicians rejected by the Board, are to be forbidden to practice medicine under heavy penalties.

This is a general outline of the scheme devised by this clique.

Should the bill become a law, the power to appoint an Examining Board will probably be conferred upon the Governor.

That officer will be besieged by this clique for appointments. And he will be hunted until he gives them places.

Now, gentlemen, let me ask your opinion concerning this most infamous scheme.

What do you think of it?

I regard it as a scheme to create an autocracy here, and I will never, never submit to it.

I am a free man by birth and by education, and a physician by virtue of the diplomas of one of the most venerable institutions of learning in the country, and it is not my nature or disposition to play the sycophant or to surrender my liberties into the keeping of a gang of vulgar practitioners.

Therefore I solemnly declare that I will not bow to their dictation.

Touching my qualifications as a physician and surgeon, I can point with pride to a long list of critical cases successfully treated by me after they had been given up by members of the clique to which I have alluded.

Patients dying from the effects of mal-practice of these charlatans have submitted themselves to my hands; and I can say, with honest pride, that I have reclaimed them from the grave.

I have practiced, with success, in this State for twenty-five years. During that period, I have treated more than twenty thousand different patients.

I practice in families—among the little children, among the rich and the poor, in the stately mansion as well as in the humble hovel—and from the lips of thousands of patients I have received words of encouragement and thanks and good cheer. These are to me more valuable than silver or gold.

They teach me that I am not the slave of a ring, but a member of a great profession, and that I am responsible alone to God and my own conscience for the manner in which I discharge the trust.

If I bowed to any other authority, I should lose my own self-respect, and should be forever unfit to practice my profession.

If my ability is doubted by my fellow-citizens or by our profession at large, I will meet any physician or surgeon in public, and there discuss with him the great science of medical jurisprudence.

I will discuss with him the science of anatomy, physiology, the diagnosis, and the treatment of disease, or any other subjects pertaining to our profession, and I will submit to the judgment and the verdict of the public and the great mass of our profession. They, and they alone, shall decide the question of superiority, and I will abide by their decision.

If that is not enough, I challenge any or all of them to meet me and settle the question of superiority before a competent tribunal.

Now, as to the law they propose to pass, it is in every respect obnoxious.

Besides, such an act, if passed, would be a direct violation of Section 16 of Article I. of the Constitution of California, which declares that no *ex-post facto* law shall ever be passed.

Such a law would also take from our colleges and medical universities the power to issue diplomas to medical students who pass the necessary examination, and give that power to incompetent medical cliques.

I am free to say, gentlemen, that in every case in which money has been used to purchase diplomas from the quack manufactories which abound in the land, the party holding such a paper ought to be driven from the ranks of the profession.

But you cannot drive out men who, for a quarter of a century have practiced our science with success and honor.

Such men are not to be driven.

They may be persuaded.

If any laws are necessary for the protection of physicians, and the people also submit to their care, I shall be happy to unite with you in presenting proper measures for the consideration of the Legislature.

No doubt some legislation is needed to remove our hospitals and asylums from the control of the desperate ring who have long had them in charge, and who, I am grieved to say are digging numberless graves in our City of the Dead. But we must adopt enlightened measures, and act as worthy successors of Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Mott, of Ricord, and the long list of noble physicians who have reflected immortal honor upon our profession.

Your obedient servant,

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