

Public Streets

The Cricket

Religious, Social and Literary Interests

VOL. 1 REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, OCT. 22, 1894. NO. 4

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Cover Page, Oct. 20, 1894 issue.

In the May 25, 1895 issue of the Cricket, Editor Watson -- frustrated by his adversities over the past year -- let it all hang out in a remarkable editorial:

"The CITROGRAPH, whom we have been gallant enough to compete with on even terms so far as advertising rates are concerned, duly consigns us to a charitable and hospitable grave. The selfish and servile publisher of the CITROGRAPH over a year ago dug a little hole for the CRICKET, which was then a semi-monthly poetical and humorous advertising sheet. It was printed at the CITROGRAPH office. Its editor, the same person who now conducts it, hustled about until he had enough quarterly advertising patronage to guarantee the CITROGRAPH'S estimate for printing it. Soon it became evident that the CRICKET'S patronage was competitive and the CITROGRAPH promptly "tacked on" enough expense to eat up more than the income, and the editor, who was then also in the employ of the CITROGRAPH, had to give up publishing the amusing CRICKET or his situation. Accordingly, that "little hole" dug by "Skipio," came in opportunely and the little chirper was unceremoniously hustled into it and temporarily buried. But a resurrection came,

the lively chirper had only gone into a state of chrysalis and one fine morning, Sept. 19, 1894, it flew out into the open. Then the political wirepullers, intriguers and log rollers... began to weave a net of oppression. "Skipio," like a man who had lost his right eye, ran about hither and thither. Each issue told about how much the CITROGRAPH had done for the community, that times were dull, and the expenses of his office justified his phenomenal high prices for printing, and therefore everything in that line belongs to him... Finally the bright idea of helping out a depleted city treasury was evolved. A combination was openly suggested. With one exception (the CRICKET) the Redlands publishers went before the trustees, indorsed the business-tax and asked that a tax on printing might be included. By getting a tax on their business, these selfish printers thought to exclude all outside competition and at the same time freeze out the little and insignificant CRICKET...

"But it didn't work. The ordinance proved a boomerang, because while Redlands was empowered to tax its own residents and business men for purposes of revenue, it could not tax outsiders. Thus these public spirited publishers who wanted 'protection' got it. The little CRICKET, whose whole outfit at that time cost less than \$400, was taxed as much as the CITROGRAPH with its wide capacity of a \$10,000 plant... we fought the discrimination tooth and nail, always bearing in mind that the law was not to blame, but the framers and instigators. We may be a chuckle-headed fool, but fools sometimes serve a good purpose, if only to designate between the

(See Page 25)

