

The Wasp
January 23, 1886

Long-Felt Wants

- A society for prevention of investigation and exposure.
- Legislation equalizing the profits of embezzlement in the public offices.
- A training school for teaching dogs the elementary principles of decency and civility.
- A Congressional law giving the Signal Service a monopoly of the weather-topic.
- A heavy penalty for inquiring about any person's health, unless the question be put by, or to, a physician.
- A Government reservation for owners of dogs.
- The absence by death of the "public-spirited citizen."
- A popular uprising against the plow—which displaces white spaders, works for nothing a day, spends no money in the country and will not assimilate.
- A pension law for dogs disabled when in active service insulting travelers on the public roads and terrifying visitors.
- An old ladies' home for the reverend debaters of the Congregational Club.
- Some practicable plan of counting the vice-presidents of a public meeting.
- An anti-nastiness law requiring women to keep their faces clean and compelling the vendor of cosmetics to kiss his customers.
- A taller thermometer for registering the temperature of that portion of Sheol set apart for people who like dogs.
- Asylums with padded walls for people who care what the currency is.
- A California locality which has not the finest scenery and best climate in the State.
- A man who loves the people yet has another source of income.
- An instantaneous and painless method of settling a question of veracity between a man who says his dog won't bite and the dog, who says he will.
- A high joint commission for delimiting the line between patriotism and insanity.
- More zeal in punishing men convicted of "prominent citizenship," and less in their detection.
- Restoration of the ordeal of combat between the American statesman and the English language.
- A constituency which having sent a man to "the halls of legislation" to steal for it, does not kick when he steals for himself.
- Something that will make a man who resents an insult to his dog resent an insult to his mother.
- A law for retiring from political service all figures of stump speech which have attained the age of sixty-two years.
- A rhyme for "silver," so that poets can have a hack at the financial question.
- A secret society that will frankly call itself the Conceited Order of Glittering Idiots.

A society for mutual advantage that is not based on the theory that twice two adversities make five prosperities.

A professional assassin who will undertake to prevent M. Pasteur from thwarting the judgments of Heaven.

An association of wives and children to inquire into the means by which they are supported.

An iron hand to suppress the pretensions of Oakland.

A young society man of faultless deportment who knows how to behave himself in a barroom.

High license "puffs" can be set so as to look to the advertiser like the regular reading matter of the paper, and to the reader like an advertisement.

No dogs.

(Source: Archive.org: <https://archive.org/stream/waspjanjune188616unse#page/n12/mode/1up>)