

THE BETTER WAY.

I ask not wealth, but power to take And use the things I have aright; Not years, but wisdom that shall make My life a profit and delight.

HE ALWAYS HAS HOPE.

Prospector for Gold One of Fortune's Men.

The typical prospector for gold, still met with in the far hills and deserts, may well be taken by all men as an example and an inspiration as far as the blessings of staying hopes are concerned, says the Los Angeles Times.

"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," says the proverb. But it is not a good proverb. No matter how long deferred a hope may be it should never be abandoned. It should never be anything but an inspiration and an incitement.

Take this nomadic tribe of prospectors, for instance. The typical prospector is a man who has spent perhaps the most of his life pursuing a hope that has never been realized. Yet we never find them discouraged. We never know them to end their days in despair.

A most sincere and persistent man is the prospector. He believes in his quest and respects it. The little or the much that he wins by spasmodic toil he invests in his dreams. He braves the solitudes and the lonely wastes of the world to reach the goal for which he strives.

And he never despairs. That's the glory of the prospector—he never despairs.

The average man, hedged in by the traditions of towns and cities or settled in the humdrum of the country, looks upon the prospector as a queer and somewhat demented individual. We laugh at this strange fellow who is pictured to us as plodding along in the wilderness and the sandy desolations with his pack and his burro, following the will-o'-the-wisps of fortune.

But the prospector is only doing in his way what we are doing in ours. We are following each our own dream as the prospector is following his.

The only difference is that we proceed in safety and without adventure. Otherwise we are the same as the wanderer of the desert and the hills. And also we are soon discouraged and we are easy prey to defeat, while it is death alone that can defeat the prospector.

It seems to us that of all the misfortunes there are in life—and heaven knows there are many—the misfortune of hopelessness is the worst. "Only for hope the heart would die," said a poet. It was a true thing to say.

And about this wonderful thing of hope there is another way to look at it and that is that we should always have at least one hope ahead. That is to say, we should always have something that we look forward to. Then, if what we have in hand fails us, the other thing that we look forward to will stay us.

Hope is something to be busy with. It is something of which we should accumulate a store. Always have plenty of hopes and have them so that they will reach out and last away into the years of the future.

There is really something mysterious about a hope. If you will cherish it faithfully and keep it warm in your heart you will be almost sure to some time realize it. It is said that we are what we believe ourselves to be. But perhaps we might better say that we are what our hopes are.

Since then a long-cherished hope is most likely to be realized, surely it were foolish of us to harbor hopes that will not bring us comfort and joy. Hope for the best there is—not great riches, not any material possession, but peace for the heart and a serene path for the white years of old age.

Cotton Growing in China.

Now that China has decided what kind of cotton seed does best in that country, and is distributing it by the ton to farmers, cotton growing starts on a new geographical development. The time may yet come when the Chinese laundryman, far from home, will croon over his collars that he is "still longing for the old plantation." Work done during several years in four experiment stations indicates that out of forty varieties of seed the kind known as "Trico" is best suited for Chinese

cultivation. It appears that "Trico" yields 141 catties to the mou, which is the Chinese way of saying something more than 141 pounds per one-sixth of an acre, for the catty weighs about one-third more than the English pound. The Chinese pound, for that matter is called "kin," but for some reason foreigners prefer to call it a "catty."

WERE MARVELS IN CHILDHOOD

Those Whom the World Has Recognized as Men of Genius Remarkable for Precocity.

One character common to genius and to insanity, especially moral insanity, is precocity. Cesare Lombroso, professor of legal medicine, University of Turin, relates that Dante, when nine years of age, wrote a sonnet to Beatrice; Tasso wrote verses at ten. Pascal and Comte were great thinkers at the ages of thirteen. Forrier at fifteen, Niebuhr at seven, Jonathan Edwards at twelve, Michel Angelo at nineteen, Gassendi, the Little Doctor, at four, Bossut at twelve, and Voltaire at thirteen. Pico de la Mirandola knew Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Chaldean and Arabic, in his childhood; Goethe wrote a story in seven languages when he was scarcely ten; Wieland knew Latin at seven, meditated an epic poem at thirteen, and at sixteen published his poem, "Die Vollkommene Welt."

Schiller was only nineteen when he wrote "Rauben." Victor Hugo composed "Irtamene" at fifteen. Pope wrote his ode to solitude at twelve, and Byron published verses at eighteen. Moore translated "Anacreon" at thirteen. Meyerbeer at five played excellently on the piano. Claude Joseph Vernet drew very well at four, and at twenty was a celebrated painter. At thirteen Wren invented an astronomical instrument, and offered it to his father with a Latin dedication.

Raphael was famous at fourteen. Beethoven composed three sonatas at thirteen. Eichorn, Mozart and Eybler gave concerts at six. Weber was only thirteen when his first opera, "Das Waldmarchen," was presented. Bacon conceived the "Novum Organum" at fifteen. Charles XII manifested his great designs at eighteen.

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NOT ALWAYS PROPERLY SANE

Scientists Assert Few People Have at All Times Full Command of Their Mental Faculties.

Many people think that the expression "temporary insanity" is merely used by a jury wishing to save relatives pain, but numbers of doctors who have made a study of mental disorders emphatically declare it is no idle term.

One doctor has stated that temporary insanity is a condition of double consciousness, not dissimilar to epilepsy. A person normally quite sane may have attacks of temporary aberration lasting little more than a few minutes, especially after long bouts of hard, continuous mental work, being particularly liable if insomnia supervenes.

Crimes have been committed in the early morning when the perpetrator has not really been properly awake, and has been horrified to find what he has done. This is a true case of temporary insanity, but it is comparatively rare, and a man in normal health would not suffer in this way.

A specialist in mental diseases has stated that he knew a case in which a person was insane during a certain time of each day, and that others have been known when the patient was quite normal at ordinary times, but suffered from a temporary fit of mania regularly once a month.

Forming Artificial Pearls.

Pearls were valuable as gems in China as early as twenty-two centuries before our era, and the Chinese had worked out a plan for the artificial formation of pearls about 700 years ago, which they have carried on extensively. Large numbers of oysters are collected and the shell gently opened to allow the introduction of various foreign substances which are inserted by means of a forked bamboo stick. These pellets are generally made of prepared mud, but may be bone, brass or wood. The oysters are then placed in shallow ponds connected with canals and are nourished by tubs of night soil thrown in from time to time.

Some time later, from several months to two years, depending upon the size of the gem desired, these oysters are taken out of the shell, the pearls removed and the body of the animal eaten as food. Millions of such pearls are sold annually in China. The most valuable are either round or pear shaped.

Few Old People in New Guinea.

The average duration of life is shorter in New Guinea than in any other country, owing to the peculiar diet of the natives, who devour with gusto the larvae of beetles, dug out of decayed tree trunks, and habitually drink seawater when near the coast. "The people die off at about forty," A. E. Pratt says in his "Two Years Among the Cannibals of New Guinea." "We saw one very old man, who may have been about sixty years of age—the only example of longevity that we came across. He was bent almost double, and had a long, white beard. His fellow tribesmen regarded him as a great curiosity, and brought him to see us. Despite the decrepitude of his body, however, there was no trace of senility; his senses were unimpaired, and the poor old creature showed great gratitude for a gift of tobacco."

Hence the Congestion.

"You have plenty of room in America," said the foreign visitor. "Oh, yes." "Then why do you build so many skyscrapers?" "I guess that's because the average American thinks he can't transact business unless he's within walking distance of the post office."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Explaining Knockout Blow.

When the lower jaw is struck on its point, especially with an uppercut, the bony portion of the ear inside is driven forcibly upward into the glenoid cavity of the skull, above and behind which is situated the delicate labyrinth of the inner ear.

The jawbone strikes hard upon the thin plate of bone that supports these sensitive organs and gives a shock to the semi-circular canals that is instantly transmitted by them to the bulb, producing dizziness, nausea and momentary paralysis.

This explains why a sideways blow on the jaw is more effective as a knockout than one delivered directly upon the point of the jaw. For the shock of a sideways blow is received in one glenoid cavity, that on the side opposite the one on which it is struck, while the shock of a blow in the center is divided between the cavities on the two sides.

DAY HONORED BY WELSHMEN

March the First Known the World Over as Anniversary of the Country's Patron Saint.

The first day of March has long been observed as a special day by the people of Wales and is called St. David's day in honor of the good St. David, patron saint of the Welsh, who lived in the sixth century.

St. David was said to have been the son of a prince of Cardiganshire, Wales, and is accredited with the working of many miracles, especially among the poor of the country. It was said that when the saint first went into the fields to preach to his followers the ground on which he was standing began to rise until it assumed a goody height, and henceforth was his pulpit.

For hundreds of years the Welsh wore sprigs of leek—a plant with broad bluish-green leaves and yellow flower clusters—in their hats as a symbol of recognition of the day. This custom was brought about, some say, from the fact that in a battle of the Welsh against their old enemies, the Saxons, St. David had ordered all Welshmen to go into battle wearing their native leek, not only to distinguish them from their enemies, but to bring them good luck.

Other writers argue that the badge was worn more as a fraternal sign and because leek was grown in every Welsh garden and was the favorite vegetable of a true Welshman.

Writers of the last century depict a typical Welsh garden as a garden of onions, garlic and leek. Homely incidents are told of Welshmen assisting each other in farming and eating their leeks together, a ceremony symbolic of hospitality and good fellowship.

ART DEVELOPED AS NEEDED

Makers of Cabinets Fitted Themselves to Demands of Increasingly Enlightened Generations.

Cabinet making, as all arts, began with the human needs of people. War and the necessity for hastily moving from place to place during the semi-civilized periods gave place to the making of homes and the effort to furnish them comfortably—one of the strongest impulses in nature and the surest sign of civilization.

The old chests in which they kept their belongings were at last allowed to remain stationary and were used as seats. The name of these chests in England was "cubins," and the maker of them was called a "cabinet maker." As soon as might be, the cabinet maker provided the old chests with backs and they became settees, while others were raised on legs and became cabinets, or, being provided with doors and drawers, became cupboards or "chests of drawers." Tables and beds were also devised, together with wainscoting for entire walls, and people really began to live.

The workmen who made these things were capable of designing and executing an entire department with its furniture. Great skill was required, and nobles and royalty prided themselves on having some artist-artisan to do their bidding. In the establishment of these men different degrees of skill were recognized, and the system of apprenticeship obtained. A youth entering one of these studio workshops, having passed all the grades, became a "master." To attain this degree was to be worthy of the respect of the world.

ART WORKS IN ANY LENGTH

Method of Getting Things Done Quickly Is Not by Any Means an Idea to Be Called New.

Hurry is not characteristic of the present century alone; our ancestors were not always immune from the habit. The Dutch artist Vanderstraeten was a master in scheming out short cuts and saving time.

Vanderstraeten had little difficulty, it is said, in painting in a day 30 landscapes the size of an ordinary sheet of drawing paper. He would surround himself with pots of paint, each of which had its particular purpose—one for the clouds, one for the grass, one for the shadows. When he was ready to begin painting he called his assistant, "Boy, a cloud!" and the lad speedily brought the desired pot.

Vanderstraeten, with a thick brush, quickly transferred the clouds to the canvas. With the finishing strokes he called, "There are the clouds; bring the grass!" And so it went, without a moment's waste of time, until the 30 landscapes were finished.

On occasions Vanderstraeten would paint in the manner described a landscape upon a long piece of canvas. In filling the orders of customers he would cut the strip into pieces of various lengths. A purchaser could buy two, three or four feet of landscape, according to his fancy or according to the size of the space he wished to decorate.

Pugilism in 1725.

Jack Broughton, the father of pugilism, fought his first fight over 133 years ago; to be exact, it was on July 9, 1725. He was engaged in many rough-and-tumble fights with other lads, but at that time he knew nothing of boxing, which was just being introduced by James Figg. While attending a fair Broughton was attracted by a boxing booth kept by Figg and was much incensed by the foul tactics used by a big man in boxing a much smaller one. He remonstrated with the big bruiser and an altercation ensued which had reached the stage of fist-cuffs when Figg interfered and invited the two men to the stage to settle their differences. Young Broughton, after ten desperate rounds, completely triumphed over his older, bigger and more experienced opponent. That was Broughton's introduction to the ring. After Figg's death he became champion and by formulating a code of rules to govern the game he became entitled to rank as the founder of modern pugilism.

Stones of Remarkable Power.

Lovers of the occult will be interested in a story told by Lady Blunt in her remarkable volume of reminiscences.

Her husband was sick unto death in Constantinople, and the Turkish government loaned her two small stones which had been in its possession since the Conquest, telling her to apply them where the pain was most severe.

Lady Blunt used them as directed with the result that the sick man speedily recovered, although four doctors had previously decided on an immediate operation.

"The wonderful stones," adds Lady Blunt, "are found at rare intervals in the veins of a donkey's neck; perhaps only one stone in a million donkeys."

Anger's Poison.

Biologists have proved, by laboratory tests, that anger is a poison in the blood; that a person who loses his temper is actually self-poisoned. Take a few drops of blood from a man in a violent rage, they tell us; drop them on the tongue of a guinea pig, and it will probably make the little beast sick. Yet we hear people brag, "I gave him a good going over." "I got good and mad," as if one bragged of deliberately contracting a dangerous case of blood poisoning.

TOILED HARD FOR SUCCESS

Great Sculptor Knew Many Vicissitudes Before His Genius Compelled World's Acknowledgment.

The old, old story of genius toiling against adversity and winning the struggle is ever repeating itself—and is ever interesting. Rodin, the great French sculptor, climbed the ladder laboriously, but with such a persistence that fame could not escape him. In "Rodin, the Man and His Art," Miss Judith Cladel tells how the young artist, in order to live, applied himself to varied occupations.

He chipped at stone and marble, he drew sketches for the fashionable jewelers of Paris, and he made articles of decorative art ordered by manufacturers. Despite a considerable loss of time he obtained by that means a true apprenticeship in art, and finally was able to realize his first dream—to have an atelier of his own.

His atelier! It was a stable in the Rue Lebrun, in the quarter of the Gobelins, where he was born. It was a cold hovel-cave, with a well sunk in the angle of the wall that, at every season, exhaled its chilling breath. It did not matter. The place was sufficiently large and well lighted.

There Rodin accumulated his studies and works until the place became so crowded that he could hardly turn himself about, but, being too poor to have them cast, he lost the greater part of them. Sometimes the soft clay settled and fell asunder; sometimes, becoming too dry, it cracked and crumbled.—Youth's Companion.

NEVER WORE ROYAL DIADEM

Seven Queens of England Who Remained Uncrowned on Account of State and Religious Reasons.

There have been seven uncrowned queens of England. The first was Margaret of France, the second wife of Edward I. Money was scarce in the government coffers at the time, and Edward could not afford the expense of a coronation. The four later wives of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn's successors—Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr—were never publicly crowned as queen consorts. Perhaps it was because Henry thought it would cause ridicule to have coronations occur as frequently as his marriages. Henrietta Maria, the wife of Charles I, being a strict Catholic, refused to take part in a state function which would compel her to partake of the sacrament according to the rites of the Church of England. Sophia Dorothea, the wife of George I, and mother of George II, was never recognized as queen of England, and therefore cannot be classed as one of Britain's uncrowned queens. Caroline of Brunswick, the wife of George IV, was not permitted to be present in Westminster hall at his coronation.

Lone Tree of 1849.

There was an immense cottonwood, four feet thick and very tall, which stood in Nebraska almost in the center of the continent, half-way between New York and San Francisco, which was within one mile of that center. Under its branches rested thousands of forty-niners en route to the Eldorado of the Pacific coast. It was the best known camping ground on the old California trail. From 1849, when the gold seekers rushed across the great plains down to the completion of the Union Pacific railway, the great tree was a guidepost to the wagon trains going West.

After the railway was completed there was no further use for the old tree and it eventually rotted away and died. In 1910 a monument was erected on the spot that the tree had occupied. It represents the trunk of a giant cottonwood and bears this inscription: "On this spot stood the original Lone Tree on the old California trail."

Remarkable Women Rulers.

Remarkable in many ways was Elizabeth Petrovna, empress of Russia, and daughter of Peter the Great. She died 157 years ago, after a reign of 20 years. While history knows her chiefly for her immorality, she left behind her monuments to her better nature, the University of Moscow and the Academy of Fine Arts in Petrograd. Empress Elizabeth's mother was the Empress Catherine, who had been the wife of a Swedish dragon, and became the mistress of several men before Peter the Great married her. Her daughter, Elizabeth Petrovna, when she ruled Russia, once became so mortified by one of the jests of Frederick the Great that she made war on the witty Prussian king, and until her death Russia was one of his most dangerous enemies.

Ant's Sweet Tooth.

One of the greatest pests that haunt our orange groves is the Argentine ant, and yet it never goes near the trees. Every bit of the damage it does is indirect. It seems that it has a very sweet tooth and is abnormally fond of a honey dew that is secreted by certain mealy bugs and scales that are most injurious, and it will go to any lengths to protect them from being destroyed or harmed in any way.

Generous Royal Gambler.

One of the most romantic gambling stories is told by Mr. Thielton-Dyer of a plainly dressed stranger who once took his seat at a faro table, and after an extraordinary run of luck succeeded in breaking the bank. "Heavens!" exclaimed an old, infirm Austrian officer who sat next to the stranger. "The twentieth part of your gains would make me the happiest man in the world!"

Wrought Iron From Ore.

Wrought iron is not commonly produced direct from the ore, but a California metallurgist, using petroleum as fuel, claims to avoid the usual troubles and to obtain pure iron at a much reduced cost. The ore, after grinding to pass through a sixteen mesh sieve, is mixed with some heavy oil, such as asphaltum. The mixture is made into cylinders, each of a size to yield about 150 pounds of reduced iron, and these cylinders are placed in the furnace and gradually heated to the welding point of the iron, then taken out and compressed into blooms. A little silicate rock is added to give slag enough to hold the semifused mass together. To avoid reoxidation—the great difficulty in previous processes—a reducing atmosphere is maintained in the furnace, and the bloom is compressed before entirely removing from the furnace. The time required for heating through and reducing is given as four or five hours.

How Sailors "Lay Ghosts"

Men of the Sea Give Short Shrift to Matter-of-Fact Spooks That Annoy Them.

The first lieutenant had just been relieved, writes "I. S. T." in the London Mail, and was wending his way from the destroyer's bridge to his cabin. It was fairly calm, but very dark, and there was little to be seen but a line of waves on each side and the dim form of a second destroyer in station astern. Even for this "No. 1" had no eyes, for he had had a weary middle watch and bed was his only interest. But he did notice a weird figure, apparently human, crawling about near the "bandstand" of the after gun.

He went to investigate and found the surgeon probationer, clad in a chamois leather overall suit, in which he had been sleeping on the ward-room couch below—for every one must sleep more or less clad, ready to turn out at a moment's notice. He was feeling about in the dark, apparently in search of something.

"What on earth are you doing, Doc?" he asked, and got the brief answer, "Laying a ghost." The first lieutenant grunted and disappeared below, leaving the doctor to insert a paper wedge between a loose rattling shell and the side of the stand in which it was placed.

A ghost, in naval language, is a noise which cannot be accounted for. In a destroyer one becomes a connoisseur in noises. The steering gear clanks heavily at intervals and the rhythmic beat of the engines is always there, changing only when the speed is altered. In heavy weather the washing and beating of the water makes a hundred noises. But ghosts are extra noises and should be avoidable. Some misplaced or ill-fitting article or a loose screw may cause the noise, and with the ship's vibration it will knock or rattle with a regular persistency that will drive the most placid mind nearly to frenzy, and sleep will rarely be the victim's portion until he has left his warm bunk and found the cause of the trouble and the ghost is laid.

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COIN TOOK FANCY OF ARABS

Austrian Maria Theresa Dollar Has Long Been the Principal Money of That Region.

The only coin in general circulation in Abyssinia is the Austrian Maria Theresa dollar, of silver. It is also the principal money in Arabia, and the story of its introduction in those regions and all the neighborhood of the Red sea is quite interesting.

More than a century ago trading Arabs got hold of some of these dollars and found the effigy of the queen (which they bore on one side, the reverse showing the Austrian double eagle) so attractive that they sought to obtain more of them, for sale as jewelry. Later on they became highly popular as a medium of exchange in mercantile transactions in Arabia; and when at intervals the Turkish government prohibited their importation a large and profitable business was done in smuggling them through Aden and other seaports.

They are all dated 1780, being even now minted from replicas of the original die, which is of rather crude workmanship. Any change would not be understood by the Arabs and Abyssinians and would render them less acceptable.

Bankers and merchants in the Red sea region import the Maria Theresa dollars in bulk from Trieste, selling them at a good profit or exchanging them for native merchandise. They are somewhat larger than our silver dollars, but weigh less than an ounce and are only a little over four-fifths silver.

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"You shall have it, then," answered the stranger as he left the room. A servant speedily returned and presented the officer with the twentieth part of the bank, adding: "My master, sir, requires no answer." The successful stranger was, soon discovered to be no other than the king of Prussia in disguise.

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In Louisiana they have discovered a way of trapping these ants. They construct nests and when they all congregate there, as they will in rainy weather, they can destroy them.

In California they poison them with poison syrup. When they are once gone it is easy enough to deal with their friends.