

LONG FELT WANT.

A Plea For a Graduated Standard of Misconduct.

What is really wanted at the present time is a standard of misconduct. We are constantly doing things in doubt, as if we hadn't a right to do them.

The confusion caused by people doing things which in their circumstances we had no right to expect is the principal cause of our troubles. It ought to be definitely settled, for example, that any millionaire who has say, over a hundred millions will thereafter lead an honest life. If he has only fifty millions his life should be semi-honest, and if he has only a paltry ten millions then it ought to be conceded that he can loot a few railroads or so until he gets on his feet.

Up to, say, ten thousand a year no man can afford to be dishonest. He ought to get up in the cars and give his seat to women under thirty-five at least, and of course he will not take the chance of robbing any safe. From ten thousand up to a hundred thousand he can engage in little dishonesties by making one of a pool or putting through a land deal or so for variety.

When he gets fifty millions or more together, however, every man ought to ask himself plainly the question whether from now on he ought not to be a philanthropist. Doesn't he owe this to his fellow men?—Life.

CHOOSING A VOCATION.

Follow Common Sense and Conscience and Do Your Best.

It is very certain that no man is fit for everything, but it is almost as certain, too, that there is scarce any one man who is not fit for something, which something nature plainly points out to him by giving him a tendency and propensity to it.

I look upon common sense to be to the mind what conscience is to the heart—the faithful and constant monitor of what is right or wrong. And I am convinced that no man commits either a crime or a folly but against the manifest and sensible representations of the one or the other.

Every man finds in himself, either from nature or education—for they are hard to distinguish—a peculiar bent and disposition to some particular character, and his struggling against it is the fruitless and endless labor of Sisyphus. Let him follow and cultivate that vocation; he will succeed in it and be considerable in one way at least, whereas if he departs from it he will at best be inconsiderable, probably ridiculous.—Lord Chesterfield.

The Oyster Crab.

Some of the most remarkable crabs in the world live at the expense of other animals. They are crustacean tramps and have no shame in sustain-

ing existence at other animals' cost. One of these marine tramps is a little fellow that makes its home with the living oyster. In fact, it dwells in the oyster's shell and feeds on whatever is left over from the mollusk's dinners. Oddly enough, however, it is only the female that has this habit of "boarding out." The male crab has no permanent home, but spends its time swimming about at the surface of the water. Oyster crabs sometimes are big enough to have an arm stretch of an inch. Epicures consider them very good to eat. Sometimes they are cooked separately, and occasionally they are pickled. Crabs of nearly allied species, somewhat bigger, are found in the shells of mussels and scallops. In this case, again, only the female is a parasite.

Scottish Caution.

Certainly the cautious Scot spirit pervaded the opinions of the Scottish architect who was called upon to erect a building in England upon the long lease system, so common with Anglican proprietors, but quite new to our friend. When he found the proposal was to build upon the tenure of 999 years he quietly suggested: "Could ye no mak' it a thousand? Nine hundred and ninety-nine years 'll be slippin' awa'."

But of all the cautious and careful answers we ever heard of was one given by a carpenter to an old lady in Glasgow, for whom he was working, and the anecdote is well authenticated. She had offered him a dram and asked him whether he would have it then or wait till his work was done. "Indeed, ma'am," he said, "there's been sic a power o' sudden deaths lately that I'll just tak' it now."—Reminiscences of Dean Ramsay.

Gallantry.

At a school in Aberdeen a teacher was examining her class on the Bible, the lesson being a part of Genesis. The teacher asked her class, "Why did the serpent tempt Eve instead of Adam?"

For some time there was silence, but at length a little boy held up his hand and replied, "Please, mum, 'cause it's ladies first."—The Bells.

The Real Thing.

"How do youh possum taste, suh?" asked the solicitous waiter. "Well," responded the patron who had ordered the article, "it tastes pretty good, but it isn't possum." "No, suh," rejoined the waiter, "an' dat's a sign it's genuine. De genuine possum is a great pretender, suh; yas, suh."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Doomed.

Bride—Dearest, Towser has eaten the supper I cooked for you with my own hands. Hubby—Never mind, sweetheart. I'll get you another dog.—Pittsburg Press.

Returned by the Glacier.

One of the first instances on record of a body returned by a Swiss glacier is that of the Hamel accident, which took place in 1820. Several guides were swept down by an avalanche and hurled into a crevasse. Hamel prophesied that the glacier would yield them up again in the course of a thousand years, but Dr. Forbes believed that the end of the glacier would be reached by the bodies in forty years. This statement was considered bold, but its accuracy was borne out by the event. In forty years the flow of ice brought the bodies to light.

In 1866 Henry Arkwright was lost in a glacier. In just thirty-one years his brother received a telegram from the mayor of Chamouni that the body was found. Every article of clothing was intact. His name and regiment could be read clearly on his handkerchief, and his gold pencil case opened and shut as easily as when he last used it three decades before.—True Tales of Mountain Adventure.

Shakespeare and the Actors.

Why do we call Garrick a great actor? Because the box office of his time acclaimed him one. Davies tells us how his first performance of Richard III, was received with loud and reiterated applause. How his "look and actions when he pronounced the words

"Off with his head; so much for Buckingham," were so significant and important from his visible enjoyment of the incident that several loud shouts of approbation proclaimed the triumph of the actor and satisfaction of the audience." A modern purist would have walked out of the playhouse when his ear was insulted by Cibber's tag, but from a theater point of view it is a good tag, and I have always thought it a pity that Shakespeare forgot to set it down himself and left to Cibber the burden of finishing the line.—Judge Parry in Cornhill Magazine.

Why the Earth Cannot Explode.

The theory is frequently advanced that planets and even suns sometimes explode and that the earth may some day blow up like a bombshell. No celestial body the size of the earth could possibly explode. If the entire molten interior of our globe could be replaced with nitroglycerin and detonated the explosion would not lift the earth's crust. In other words, if we assume that the crust of the earth is from fifty to a hundred miles in thickness it would require something much more powerful than even nitroglycerin to burst the shell. It is necessary only to do a little figuring to see that the pressure of the earth's crust at a depth of from fifty to a hundred miles far exceeds the pressure exerted by the most powerful high explosive.—Hudson Maxim.

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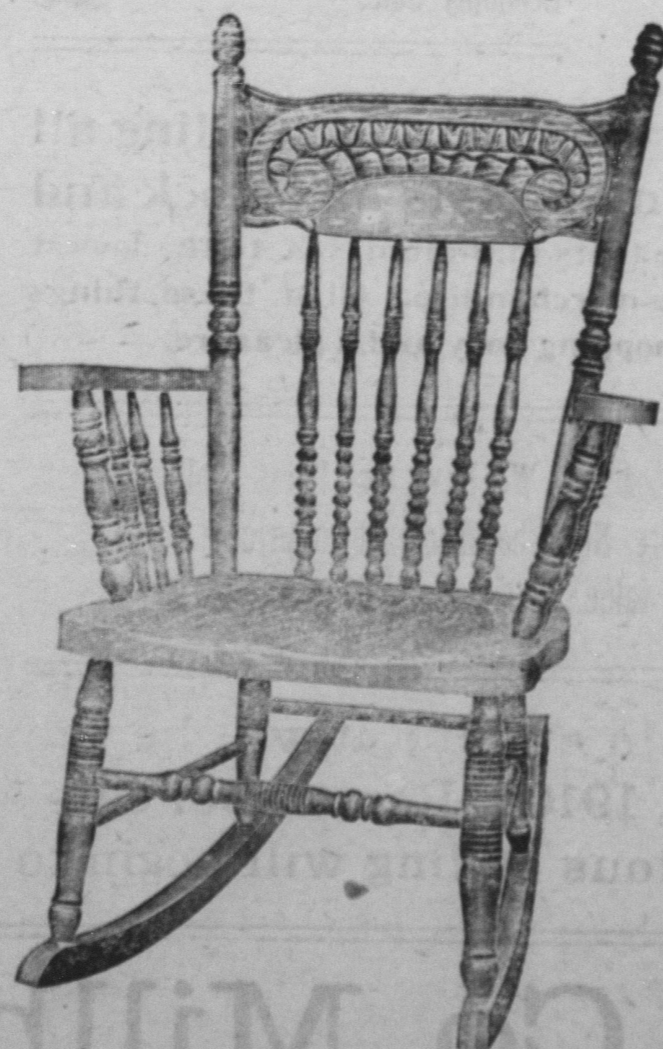
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