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he did not create. All three were the result of military, of Bismarckism, and not the cause. Nietzsche's case the irony of this middle world comes out poignantly. Poor, sad, mad Nietzsche! He was practically unknown in this country until recently, and now he is known for the very things which he repudiated and denied himself when he came to the high, clear noonday of his mental life.

FAILURE IN LIFE IS INEXCUSABLE, EVEN FOR THE ORDINARY MAN

Handicaps Overcome by the World's Great Men—Every Man Is Qualified for Some Form of Success—The Will Power Is the Decisive Factor—Whining Is the Voice of Cowardice.

By JOSEPH H. ODELL

SIR WALTER SCOTT and Lord Byron were both cripples, and Sir Walter wrote much of his best work when writing in pain; Alexander H. Stephens, the brilliant Southern leader and one of the most powerful and convincing men who ever sat in the United States Congress, was twisted and gnarled and unable to walk; step, while the country was riving with his eloquence; Nelson, with only one eye and one arm, broke Napoleon's power upon the sea; Parkman, the historian, was almost blind and a chronic invalid; blind Herreshoff designed the fleetest and most graceful yachts that ever sailed the ocean; Fawcett, England's most famous Postmaster General, was totally blind through an accident in youth; Galileo continued his investigations long after sight failed, and Milton wrote "Paradise Lost" with light denied; Doctor Johnson was a hypochondriac and Tom Hood a victim of chronic melancholia; Bunyan was in jail when he composed the "Pilgrim's Progress"; so were Sir Walter Raleigh when he wrote the "History of the World" and William Penn when he chronicled the "Fruits of Solitude."

defects and disqualifications, which are so easily pleaded to extenuate our failure or palliate our lack of effort, are probably a mere bagatelle when compared with theirs. A defect or a deformity may shut one door, but it does not close all avenues of opportunity. Instead of striking the flag to our limitations and misfortunes, it is our first duty to overcome them or to develop other elements of strength. Of all the voices that speak words of delusion in our ears, none is more persuasive and enervating and misleading than the whine of our own disabilities. "If you were built like other men," the voice says, "there would be no excuse. But you were sent into the world so imperfectly equipped, so foredoomed to failure, that no one can expect you to win." It is a lie, a double-distilled lie, and the man who listens is lost.

Charles Goodyear was a Philadelphia hardware merchant when he began to experiment with rubber, and he struggled for 25 years in misery and against recurring failures to discover a means of imparting durability to rubber compositions without losing the flexibility of the material. He was poor, in feeble health, with a young family to support and had only a few friends. The experiments shattered his already poor health, soon brought him face to face with starvation, landed him in jail for debt, while his friends deserted him and called him a madman. But he knew that in the end he could make rubber into a commercial commodity. He worked through year after year of loneliness, physical pain and personal humiliation. Men openly jeered him on the street and, believing him to be a maniac, they ceased to reason with him. At last the discovery was made, but he had no sooner begun to manufacture and market his rubber goods than a financial panic swept away everything he possessed. Even then his sanity was doubted; friends, relatives and his own family demanded that he should abandon his dream; they talked of having him confined as a man of unbalanced mind. Everything was against him; but broken as he was, in health and fortune, he fought on; his will to succeed remained intact. And now, wherever rubber is used in any form, the name of Charles Goodyear is honored.

Self-reliance is only another name for dominant and dominating will power. It is not well to form the habit of relying upon the judgment or benevolence of others. A man must rest his claim to success upon belief in his own powers and the unflinching exercise of his own will. The most precious years of life can be wasted in consulting relatives and friends about a possible course of which they can know little or nothing. By the time all of the opinions have been gathered, sorted and sifted the opportunity is gone forever. Nothing big has ever been done by a nice weighing of probabilities. The very best work of the world has been accomplished against advice, in spite of apparent disabilities, in the teeth of bitter criticism and in the face of adverse public opinion. The first type-founder and printer was supposed to have been a tool of Satan; as early as 1707 Doctor Papin constructed a crude powerboat, which was immediately seized by sailors and broken up because its success might deprive them of a livelihood; Hargreaves had his spinning frame destroyed by an indignant mob; Ray was mobbed for introducing his flying shuttle; Arkwright was denounced as an enemy of the nation because of his invention; Stephenson had to carry his railroad forward against violent popular prejudice; Jacquard was nearly killed by the weavers for making his loom; Murdoch's illuminating gas was openly ridiculed in the British Parliament; Fulton's steamboat was the butt of jibe and jeer; scientists and ministers of the Gospel denounced Morton for his discovery of anaesthetics. The man who waits for favoring fortune is foredoomed to failure. Nothing avails but to make sure of what powers he actually possesses and then to strive for their realization through the earth rock and the heavens fall. If that is once learned, there is not much beyond that any teacher can impart.

Richard Baxter, who spent most of his time alternating between a sick bed and prison, nevertheless gave to the world 186 ponderous volumes; Darwin, the apostle of evolution, could not work more than two hours a day; James Watt, the father of the steam engine, was so frail and fragile from disease that he could work only in snatches between attacks; Doctor Kane, the most intrepid of explorers and travelers, made his terrible journeys, even his famous dash for the North Pole, when crippled with rheumatism and in momentary danger of death from heart disease; Robert Louis Stevenson did all of his finest writing after he was doomed to die of consumption—when he could not write he dictated, when he dare not speak for fear of bringing on a hemorrhage he still dictated on his fingers in the deaf and dumb alphabet; Thomas Spencer Baynes, the editor of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica," accomplished his monumental task with only the help of one leg; Beethoven composed some of his noblest music when deaf and unable to hear a note, and Edison, the wizard of electricity, is likewise deaf; Francis Huber, the Swiss naturalist, became a celebrated entomologist and writer upon natural history after becoming totally blind; John Richard Green wrote his "History of the English People" upon his deathbed, his friends averring that only his indomitable will kept him alive to its close; Cecil Rhodes was sent out to Africa to die of an incurable disease, but before he obeyed the summons he carved an empire out of the Dark Continent and made himself one of the richest men in the world; Lord Roberts as a young man was considered too delicate to live, but by the utmost self-care and hard-earning of strength he gave England more than 60 years of invaluable military service; General Paul, with only one arm, is valiantly commanding the right wing of the allied army in France; Julius Caesar, the world conqueror, was an epileptic, and throughout his marvelous campaigns his life was never worth an hour's purchase; Helen Keller, deaf, blind and speechless, has brought the American people as scholars to her feet.

Most of the world's greatest achievements have been won against terrible odds. What was chafed against as a curb was intended as a spur. To win under a handicap is more glorious than to win under any other conditions. The weak man surrenders to his weakness and becomes weaker; the intrinsically strong man looks upon his frailty as another incentive to success; an indomitable spirit transforms a liability into an asset. Many a battle has been won by an army more than half shot to pieces—the work of heroes. This world is no place for people of less spirit. No one can read such a list of achievements by handicapped men as has been given above without being shamed into silence and whipped into action, unless he has the heart of a crab and the will of a worm. The maimed and the broken, the diseased and the physically incapacitated have accomplished history's most notable deeds. Our ills and ailments, our

Where and When to Fight

PHILADELPHIA'S vast commuting population is not voiceless, neither is it helpless. It can do something more than protest to the railroads which are going to impose a tax on living in the country. Immediate, organized action on the part of the commuters is their only course, and that action must be concentrated on getting the case before the Public Service Commission, through Pennsylvania.

The increase in suburban passenger fares will go into effect December 15. The Commission is powerless to suspend rates pending a hearing, but has full power to prevent them finally. To secure as early a hearing as possible, therefore, the first step which the commuters should take. Before beginning an exodus from the suburbs they can await the decision of the Commission, but they must do their utmost to hasten that decision.

The issue provoked by the raising of suburban fares is concerned with something more than real estate value, though that aspect of the threatened situation is important. People go into the suburbs to make homes as well as to build houses. They have to send their children to school. Most of them are not so overburdened with bank balances that in locating their homes they ignored the cost of transportation to and from the city. The sudden increase of that cost, at the rate of 100 and even 150 per cent. in the case of many families, hits them hard. The railroads got them out into the suburbs, and now, all in a moment, order them to stand and deliver.

On the Threshold of a New Era

PRESIDENT WILSON and Secretary McAdoo are entitled to the felicitations which they have officially offered to each other on the successful operation of the Federal reserve bank law. It is the distinguishing feature of the Administration's work, and it will prove to be the foundation upon which its permanent claim to gratitude will rest. But important as the Federal reserve system must be in establishing confidence and creating optimism, it is only one factor in the return of prosperity. The breaking up of European trade monopoly by the war is already giving America an unparalleled opportunity of commercial expansion. We have long needed the outside world markets as an outlet to our productive capacity; now those markets need us in order to meet their insistent demands.

The opening of the branch of the National City Bank in Buenos Aires is the flying wedge of our invasion of South America. Henceforth there will be no need for American merchants and financiers to do their business with the South American Republics via Europe. A straight path leads to an open door, and there is every indication that this country will profit by the invitation. Indeed, we are already enjoying the first fruits of what is to be a rich harvest.

Harsh Noises From Lilliputians

THERE are certain tropical flowers of blatant appearance, which give forth prodigiously elegant odors; odors indeed so potent they are said to suffocate insects and even animals. There are human beings of a similar classification. They belong to that professional class of "uplifters" who hold forth from soap boxes on the ills of society. They are loud in their denunciations of all existing orders. The great reforms of the world are not accomplished en masse. They are effective only as they work out in individual conduct. The man or woman who retails ethics for the race and falls in his or her own life is as futile and bizarre a phenomenon as the malodorous flower of the tropics.

A Hog for Every Home

THE boy who sticks to the hog game is headed down Prosperity avenue faster than the speed limit. A Sunday school sayer in one of the richest cities in Ohio, no, just a wholesome little bit of domestic advice from Missouri's State Board of Agriculture. "Buy a pig and help the boy's spending money." The well-known Irish family that "kept a pig in the parlor to give the place a tone" may have been a little shy on geography, but they had the right idea. One pig will supply ponies, books, new clothes and chewing gum for any boy.

As Mother Used to Make It

REMEMBER that mother used to make "remember the fat rolling pin that she sometimes shook when grimy fingers got to poking the flowery surface of the bread? Well, it's done for. Wayne's Saturday Club says so. Somebody out there has invented a patent apparatus that saves mother's elbow and turns out just as good a product. But what about the children? You can't change youth. It will still "want to see the wheels go round." And that means the whole process, from the mixing bowl to the oven, with mother presiding over the proceedings.

War with the Turks? Nay, nay. If worse comes to worst, we'll arrest them.

The convention and its squabbles being over for the day, "Labor Delegates Renew Friendships in Annual Dinner." The English have a sense of humor after all. Ask the German prisoners who have been interned at Tipperary.

U. of P.'s Fashion Cure

THE problem of feminine styles is settled. Let last; in hats, anyway. The University of Pennsylvania has discovered a method by which mere man may put his veto on a few of the money-eating changes in headgear that sweep the country and clean the pocketbooks. Some of the "co-eds" recently took to large brown felt hats adorned with a red "17," and the faculty has expressed them as mannish and unbecoming. It is a large indictment; it ought to down any sort of bonnet. All mere man has to do is send the female population off to college and put the job of housing the fashionists up to the only official body that has ever displayed the nerve to tackle it.

No "Dead Hand" in the War

UNRELIABLE accounts, brothing with the names of Nietzsche, Treitschke and Bernhardi, have been offered to prove that literary men and philosophers were the "dead hands" behind the war. But the hand literature is weak and white. The hand behind this war is the mailed fist of militarism.

CURIOSITY SHOP

"Burying the hatchet" is derived from the Indian custom of burying the tomahawk when hostilities were done. Longfellow refers to it in "Hiawatha": "Buried was the bloody hatchet; Buried were all warlike weapons. And the war-cry was forgotten; Then was peace among the nations."

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Total. 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