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"BUNK!"

[IT] LOOKS to me," said Senator Vare, talking of the proposed harmony [illegible] Mr. Hays, national Republican chairman, "like some more of that Penrose [bunk] we get so often."

[Pe]dantry, spuriousness, insincerity are a few of the unpleasant qualities that [a p]olitician has in mind when he combines the meaning of them all in the easy [illegible]able "bunk."

Mr. Vare should be an expert on bunk. [It] has served him often. But in this case [he] goes wrong. If Mr. Hays could eliminate [some] of the bunk from both wings of the [Re]publican party in this State he would [lea]ve the Republicans in better fighting [sha]pe for the future.

[illegible]

Senator Lewis says that we have [1,000,000] men in France already. Which indicates [tha]t the statements from Washington that [we] would have that number abroad on July [1 w]ere not exaggerated.

[illegible]

MR. MARKHAM IS ON THE JOB

CHARLES H. MARKHAM, the new director of railroads for the Allegheny [dis]trict, talks like a man of judgment and [disc]retion. The interviews which he has [give]n to representatives of this newspaper [are s]ane and sensible. He announces that [he] intends to work with the men who can [hel]p him in facilitating the movement of [frei]ght and that he is not going to hold [any] inquests, but is looking ahead. He [is] to move cars and he intends to move [the]m, and he intends also to cooperate [with] the shipping board in the handling of [fre]ight.

[Of] course, he was expected to be a man [of] executive ability. It is gratifying [to] [know] that he is more than that. He understands human nature. The admirable temper of his statements justifies the hope [tha]t he will inspire the men who are to [wor]k with him with confidence in him [and] with a determination to exert themselves to the utmost.

[illegible]

The Entente Allies agreed not to bomb German cities on Corpus Christi day, but Germans bombed Paris. What else could [be] expected?

[illegible]

THE AMERICANS AT CANTIGNY

[W]HEN a man laughs as he tries to [ha]s you half-beaten before he strikes a blow. He is apt to be cheerful because [a m]ystic voice sings in his soul and tells [him] he is unconquerable.

[It] was good, therefore, to read of the [Amer]ican regiment that took the town of [Canti]gny from the Germans as if the [adven]ture were a lark. There was a great [deal] of red fighting, but the Americans [seem] never to have lost their assured [gaie]ty for a moment.

[The]re will be harder fighting yet. The [Ame]ricans in France will suffer reverses, [and] setbacks and even defeats. The men [will] not always find it possible to laugh [goin]g and coming and they will not always [roun]d up frightened prisoners in docile [grou]ps.

[An]d yet it is impossible to resist the [feeli]ng that the men of Cantigny, in the [first] exclusively American charge of the [war], properly represented something mystic [an]d assured in the mind of our entire [army] when they went to the attack as [they] might have gone into a big football [gam]e—without fear or doubt and with no misgivings even in the face of rumbling guns. We cannot lose because we [know] we are unbeatable.

[illegible]

[The poet Ed]win Markham wrote about the man [with] the hoe. Charles H. Markham is the [man wi]th a broom.

[illegible]

[NE]W CONQUESTS IN THE AIR

[OBVI]OUSLY the ground is becoming unpopular. In the telegraph and again [in the] telephone men made themselves independent of the land. The desire of the [human] race for more intimate communication brought the wireless. It brought the [aerial] mail.

[Mr.] Prager, Second Assistant Postmaster General, now announces that experiments are afoot to expand [the air m]ail service because of the tremendous advantage that airplanes have in [their abil]ity to fly as the eagle flies, independent of roads, hills, canyons and all [na]tural obstacles. Mr. Prager is [confiden]t air machines will revolutionize [the mai]l service before long and even [create a] system of delivery to remote [places where] no land conveyance has been [illegible]rate.

[When the] war ends the airplane, with [an] industry so recently developed [illegible], will be a source of limitless [illegible]. The diversion of this new [arm of] war to the service of international [commerce] will be a constructive move [of great i]mportance.

[illegible] and the printing press have [done se]rvice for mankind in the [illegible]. They united the country. [illegible] the aims of the Government [in the sup]reme hour of its history. [illegible] while one element in the [illegible] is doing its utmost [illegible], another element [illegible] to utilize [illegible]

NO SURRENDER OF JUDGMENT

The Nation Must Insist That Its Best Minds Shall Function in Order to Win the War

NO MORE certainly fatal mistake could be made at this time than for the nation to surrender its judgment to any one man or any group of men. We have leaders and we must continue to have them; but they are human and fallible. They need the advice and assistance of the whole people, for it will take the combined wisdom of our ablest statesmen and soldiers to win the war and to solve the problems growing out of it.

If there is any purpose on the part of the Democratic leaders to measure the patriotism of men solely by the degree of enthusiasm with which they "stand by the President" it is to be regretted. The whole nation is back of the President of the United States in its desire to win the war. The Republicans have at times supported him when the Democrats were attempting to block his path. And war measures have been carried in Congress by Republican votes which would have failed if they had had to depend on the Democrats. A charge of playing petty politics does not lie against the Republican leaders. The determination of the Democratic leaders in Congress to get along without them if possible and to make this a Democratic war has not prevented the broad-minded Republican statesmen from doing their full duty.

The Republican [party] in the [illegible] will follow the example of its leaders in the Senate and the House of Representatives. This was demonstrated by the statements in the platform adopted by the Republican State convention in Indiana by Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, who was chairman of the committee on resolutions. That platform may be accepted as the formulation of the views of the National Committee.

Its pertinent and significant declarations are:

[illegible]

This is a series of declarations distinguished for broad patriotism and constructive vision which it would be difficult to improve. It is an insistence on the right of the nation to discuss pressing problems on their merits, in order that the best solution may be found, and a protest against blind acceptance of whatever may be said by one or two men in office as the end of the law and the gospel of political wisdom. And it is the basis on which can be built the demand that the best men in the country shall be elected to Congress in November regardless of party.

There never was a time when the need of statesmanship in Congress was greater than now. We are all agreed on the necessity of winning the war and on the importance of supplying all the men and material which the military men call for. But we are not all agreed on the problems of domestic life and foreign commerce growing out of the war. The consideration of those problems cannot be postponed till the peace treaty is signed.

This newspaper has said time after time that the Congress to be elected this year would be compelled to consider some of the gravest issues ever confronting a legislative body, and that a stupendous blunder would be made if the country neglected to consider the qualifications of the candidates for Congress to deal with these issues. We have made a good beginning in Pennsylvania, for the candidates have been selected without regard to anything but petty partisan considerations. The other States must do better than we. They must call to the front their best brains and draft them for the pressing tasks. The wisdom of Congress is only the combined wisdom of the Congressmen. By raising the level of the wisdom of the individual we can raise the wisdom of the whole body.

It is fortunate for the country that the Republican National Committee has decided not to be cowed by any charge that criticism of inefficiency is an attack on the Government of the United States, but that it has determined to conduct a congressional fight for the purpose of bringing to the support of that Government the best men in order that we may both win the war and solve the problems of peace.

[illegible]

The graves of American soldiers in France were also decorated yesterday.

[illegible]

A SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY

GERMANY'S repeated insistence that the measure of victory be determined by facts rather than dreams is a policy which civilization can apply to the submarine situation with growing comfort. Thirteen months ago—in April, 1917—the U-boat menace was at its height and the spirits of the Allies and America were sustained chiefly by hopes. Figures are now tangibly and speedily replacing this nebulous fare. Ship health is not a matter of patriotic conjecture, but of actual statistics.

Despiritualized Germany confessedly rejoices in cold-blooded calculations. The extent of her ecstasy over our latest drop in our marine insurance rates is, however, likely to be limited. The risk rates for vessels in the war zone have fallen from [illegible]. On top of this substantial [illegible] from the War Risk Insurance Bureau for a reduction from $2.50 to $1.50 a thousand dollars in insurance rates on lives of officers and crews of merchant ships passing through the danger area.

No indices of the subjugation of sea piracy are so reassuring as these. Business men abhor chimeras. The conviction of investors that anti-submarine vigilance has given additional security to their money is of paramount significance. Naturally the nation cherishes still greater hopes, but they are reinforced this time by a bulwark of good hard facts.

[illegible]

The [illegible] drive weakened after three days. General Foch is evidently the right man to stop the Huns.

[illegible]

OUR LITTLEST ALLY

PUBLIC opinion in Cuba, as it was interpreted in Washington yesterday by [illegible], the Cuban minister, [illegible]

[illegible]

DANGER IN PRICE-FIXING

CHARLES H. SABIN, president of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, made the following pertinent remarks on the subject of price-fixing by the Government at the recent convention of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers:

[illegible]

The fixing of the price of coal was undoubtedly an important factor in the coal shortage that we experienced during last winter and that reduced our production of steel, now of the most vital importance. The productive energy of society can yield only a definite number of units of commodities.

In order that the Government may get a known proportion of these commodities, individuals must reduce their consumption. When a commodity is sold for whatever price it will bring in the open market, each person buys as much of it as he wants at that price and there is enough to go around; when it is sold by compulsion for something below that price people want more than is available, and there is no longer enough to go around in the sense of each person getting as much as he asked for.

The distribution resulting from the ordinary working of unrestricted prices is undoubtedly bad in enabling those with means to buy more than the less fortunate, but the higher price tends to cut off waste and, in fact, the least necessary consumption. It thereby releases more productive energy for war purposes.

The problem of fixation of prices involves other difficulties. Just as soon as the price of one commodity is established it becomes imperative that prices of many other commodities also should be fixed. There is no end to the vicious circle. It is questionable whether it would not be better to allow prices to take their course and to have the Government apply a tax on excess profits arising during the period of the war as a counter-restraint in the public interest.

OVERTONES

I HEARD a bird at break of day
  Sing from the autumn trees
A song so mystical and calm,
  So full of certainties,
No man, I think, could listen long
  Except upon his knees.
Yet this was but a simple bird,
  Alone, among dead trees.
—William A. Percy, in the Bellman.

SINCE YOU INSIST

Us as a Prophet

WE DON'T see why all the other serious thinkers (like Colonel House, for instance) should monopolize the dreary satisfaction of having predicted this war.

Ever since we began to be a serious thinker, which was when we were a sophomore at college, we have kept an intermittent diary. In that diary, under date February 24, 1912, we find the following:

Why cannot Great Britain say to Germany, "If you will build no more battleships, neither will we." Of course, there is the great problem of what to do with the enormous plants and organizations which have been devised to build and supply munitions of war. But—a shipyard which can build battleships can build other ships just as well—and could not a foundry which manufactures guns be gradually transformed into a factory for other and more useful engineering work? Of course it is exceedingly difficult, but in this piling up of armaments we are simply running into a cul de sac from which there is no egress save by an appalling conflict.

Our idea of fame would be to have a telephone exchange named after us. (Operator, give us Socrates 1492!)

Cannon and Canzoni

When our friend John Ransom (first lieutenant in the artillery, A. E. F.) writes to us from France he always [encloses] one or two poems he has written during the stress of a [illegible] life.

[illegible]

April

(Written in France in April, 1917)
[illegible] on the April air,
The [illegible] all poor [illegible]
  bloom.
[illegible]

[illegible]

He shall receive his praise.
JOHN CROWE RANSOM,
First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, A. E. F.

Preliminary Notes to the Pan-Russian Shave

The news that the Russians have decided to shave off their beards as a preliminary to political renaissance fills us with dismay. Has the traditional stronghold of the whisker capitulated? Have the Bolsheviki surrendered to the Chimbicides?

* *

Not long ago the French poilus were ordered to shave off their beards, but it was estimated that the army was [no] tougher after the sacrifice. We understand that the shorn plumes were braided into a hawser three miles long, which is being used at the Louvre as a winding sheet for the Kaiser and the Crown Prince.

* *

We are grieved by this reaction against the old and manly custom of decorating the chin and chops as nature intended. Ever since the days of the prophets beards have been the unforgettable symbol of wisdom and dignity. From Moses to John Burroughs, saints, sages and warriors have girt themselves about with this vesture of [illegible].

* *

Take the case of literature. Speaking at random and without application to works of reference, we recall that Chaucer, Shakespeare, Bacon, Browning, Tennyson, Dickens, Carlyle, Edward Lear, Bernard Shaw, Walt Whitman and Lyman Abbott have given sanction to the hairy chin. The Bard of Avon was a printer's error for the Beard of Avon.

*

The Civil War was argued by generals whose beards have become a byword. The ole whiskers of Matthew Arnold and the feather duster of Mr. Hughes have passed into legend. Anatomists have contended that instead of the pituitary gland it is really the beard that is the residence of the soul. That is why women have to carry those little reticules or handbags to accommodate and convey their souls.

* *

The beard of King Edward the Seventh was known in every casino in Europe. After the death of the Merry Monarch it was suggested in England that a graceful tribute to his memory would be for every man in England to grow a full beard. The shaving money thus saved was to be applied to the construction of a battleship, The Unbeardable. Only the instant outcry of the Barbers' Union of Great Britain prevented this suggestion from being put into growth.

* *

We have always had a hankering to grow a beard ourself. It would be wedge-shaped, like those of the Assyrian kings; it would be crinkly and of a resounding honey color. It is vain to say that a good chin needs no beard. The world must be made safe for beards.

Literature and Tobacco

Sir James Barrie once gave the following formula to an admirer who asked a recipe for the production of literature. On a crumpled scrap of paper Barrie wrote as follows:

Journalism

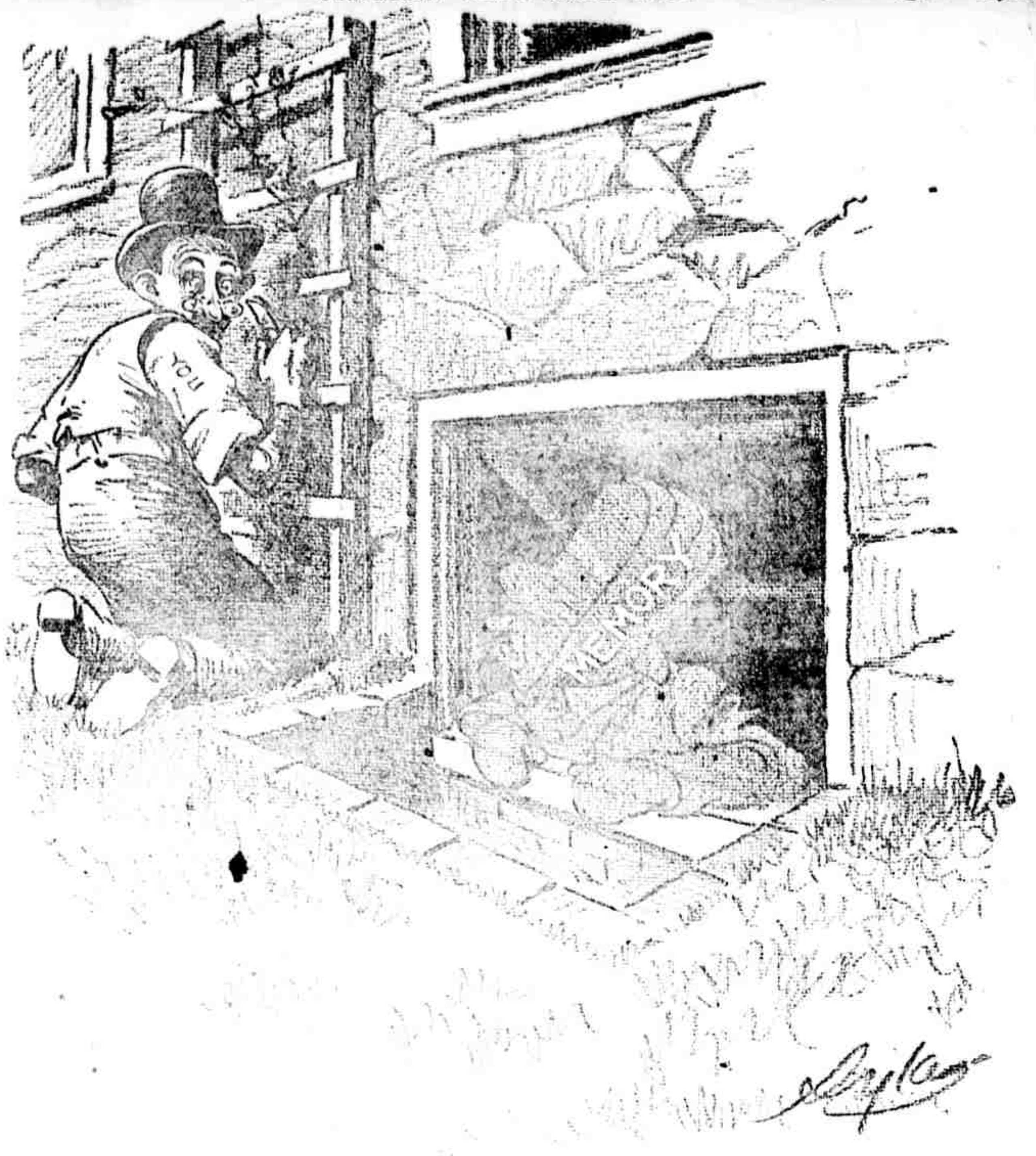
2 pipes	equal	1 hour
2 hours	"	1 idea
1 idea	"	3 paragraphs
3 paragraphs	"	1 editorial

Novels

8 pipes	equal	1 ounce
7 ounces	"	1 week
2 weeks	"	1 chapter
20 chapters	"	1 pen
2 pens	"	1 novel

SOCRATES.

"ORDERED THAT COAL YET?"



Prefatory Notes for the Walt Whitman Centennial

THE Whitman Fellowship holds its annual meeting in New York tonight to celebrate Walt's ninety-ninth birthday. We imagine that worth will flow freely. The beauty of Walt's poems is that you can stop when you get tired. But when people talk about [illegible] you have to listen till they get through.

* *

The Walt Whitman centennial is only a year off, so in case we should then be called on for any intro impromptus we are going to jot down a few notes while we think about it.

* *

Walt led an almost ideal life for a [illegible]man. He worked on newspapers; he never had to hold any one job for a long time; he wandered about pretty much as his fancy suggested; he managed to get in a good deal of loafing, eating, reading and loafing around streets and ferries (the most fascinating occupation known to man). And there were innumerable admirers who would egg him on to talk about himself as long as he liked. He was more listened against than listening.

* *

The contempt with which the American magazine editors treated him was more than outweighed by the zeal of his disciples abroad. In England he was adopted by a cult that welcomed him as the final and at last and affection-waiting voice of democracy. He attained the happiest lot known to man, that of the prophet who knows himself more appreciated in foreign lands than in his own. What is more soothing to human self-esteem?

* *

The quaint thing about Walt Whitman is that no matter how seriously one intends to discuss him, amusement keeps on butting in.

* *

The truth about Walt's poems may be deduced from the truth about his life. He was a rambling, warm-hearted, garrulous fellow, infinitely interested in human life, a passionate lover of America (never having been anywhere else), a close, accurate observer of nature. It was not in him to concentrate on one poem long enough to distill his musings into crystalline beauty and compactness any more than it was in him to linger long at one job or in one place. He had in high degree the commonest and least divine gift, that of unending elaboration. He gossiped all around his theme, thinking that if he made his catalogues of places and trades long enough he would express all America. "I dare not shirk any part of myself," he cried. If he only had!

* *

His greatest poems, of course, like all great poems, were those in which he resisted his temptation to monologue: compressed and focused his thought, sharpened its edge and let his native music speak itself in simple brevity.

* *

Gluttonous of the glory and fascination of life, he tried to tell it all. But poetry comes only in thin, thin slices.

* *

He describes one of his poems as "a rude, brief recitative." He was frequently rude, but rarely brief. What he humorously called his leaves of grass were more often haystacks.

* *

It is because we love and admire Walt Whitman so whole-heartedly for what was rich and fine in his broad-chested humanity that we take pains on a warm day a whole year ahead to commemorate his centennial.

* *

What is not sufficiently recognized is that he was a monstrous fine purveyor of prose. Much of it has the smoking sonorous vibration of Carlyle; the passion and recurrent thunder of the sea that Walt adored. It is breathless, [illegible], insufficiently [illegible] with [illegible], but [illegible] will [illegible] on without it.

* *

Let us not miss that Walt was a great war correspondent. He spent three years ministering to the wounded in the Civil War. No book ever saw the horrors of warfare with a more tender and anguished eye. "The real war will never get in the books," he said. That is as true now as then. War, which he and women's [illegible] [illegible]. He describes the execution of [illegible] Confederates who had been captured in the act of mutilating [illegible]. Then he adds: "Multiply the above by scores, aye hundreds, [illegible] with every lurid passion, the wolf's, the lion's lapping thirst for blood—the passionate boiling volcanoes of human revenge for comrades, brothers slain—with the light of burning farms and heaps of smutting, smoldering black embers—and in the human heart everywhere black, worse embers—and you have an inkling of this war."

* *

In these times it is well to read Whitman again. His vision of the greatness of America, his passion for the fardling energy and hurly-burly of our teeming life, is a naive and glowing dream. And after watching America in the grim throes of the Civil War he was deeply struck by the vast military potentiality of the nation. He said: "We have undoubtedly in the United States the greatest military power—an exhaustless, intelligent, brave and reliable rank and file—in the world. The problem is to organize this in the manner fully appropriate to it, to the principles of the republic and to get the best service out of it."

* *

With all his foibles, his zest in absurd tags of French, his insistence on the comeliness of the uncomely, his tedious catalogues of declamation, there was in his vast, eager heart a stirring message that humanity will always hear with respect. Lightnings of phrase and melody struck him; his tinder often smoldered, but sometimes he burst into immortal blaze. No man who loves the sea, and naked running on hard sand beaches, and scrubbing himself with a bristle brush, can be far wrong.

* *

He had a vision of a cleaner, braver, freer humanity. "I will plant companionship thick as trees along all the rivers of America. I will make inseparable cities with their arms about each other's necks." And let it not be forgotten what he said of the cause of democracy:

To Thee, Old Cause

To thee, old cause!
Thou peerless, passionate good cause,
Thou stern, remorseless, sweet idea,
Deathless throughout the ages, races, lands,
After a strange sad war, great war for thee
(I think all war through time was really
  fought, and ever will be really fought,
  for thee),
These chants for thee, the eternal march
  of thee.

* *

Every lover of Whitman knows his passion for ferries. He used to cross and recross the Delaware from Philadelphia to Camden, sometimes for several hours together. And our own suggestion for the centennial is that the Pennsylvania Railroad, the next time it builds a new Delaware ferryboat, should christen it the Walt Whitman.
C. D. M.

The Point of View

Peace also is hell when Germany dictates it.—Toledo Blade.

Make It a Bumper

We are cultivating the giving habit in America and harvesting splendid crops.—Providence Journal.

The Right Balance

Give until the war is won. Fill the Chest [illegible]

COURAGE

By Phoebe Hoffman

A SLANTING sun-ray pierced the twilight gloom,
And mellowed all the shabby little room;
Made golden patterns on the snowy spread,
And haloed the still sufferer on the bed,
Touched her pale cheeks and kissed her sunken lips,
Caressed the poor, numb, useless finger-tips.
A soldier's picture hung upon the wall.
"He's corp'ral now and grown so straight and tall,
Never complains," she gently smiled and said,
While the swift sunbeam changed from gold to red,
And creeping upward lit the boyish face
With flaming glory for a little space.
"He's won a medal, and he's got so strong."
Her patient eyes turned toward him lingered long.
"I didn't stop him, I just let him go;
He'd have stayed with me if I had said 'no.'
It takes some courage but to lie and wait,
Thinking and thinking, till I almost hate
The cause that took him from me; then I ask,
'God give him courage to fulfill his task.'"

Memorial Day is no longer merely an American sacred day. It is a day of grateful memory for all those brave men who have perished in the cause of world freedom. What we used to think of as the G. A. R. now becomes the G. A. D.—the Grand Army of Democracy.

His Own Anthologist

If all the press clippings about the Kaiser were laid end to end they would reach from the center of hell to its circumference and back again—some day perhaps a ghost with blistered feet and turned-up mustache will be laying them that way.—Don Marquis, in New York Evening Sun.

As the Army Knows

We used to think France was an awful long way off. But now it is just "over there."—Savannah News.

Daily Pessimistic Thought

It's too bad that the new prohibition law for Hawaii doesn't include ukuleles.—New York Telegraph.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. Which is the Wolverine State?
2. What is a Plimsoll mark?
3. Who said: "A decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization"?
4. Where is the Asiago Plateau?
5. Where is Marshal von Mackensen reported in a high command?
6. Who was the first Vice President of the United States?
7. What is the German national flower?
8. Who was Abelard?
9. Who is Secretary of War of the United States?
10. Name the author of "The Pilot."

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. Chemin-des-Dames ("Road of the Ladies") is an important highway running along the hills flanking the northern bank of the Aisne in the Champagne, where the Germans have launched an offensive.
2. Aesop; writer of fables; probably an African slave in Greece, about the sixth century B. C.
3. Friedrich Wilhelm, son of the Kaiser, is Crown Prince of Germany. He is in command of the new Aisne drive.
4. The shamrock is the national "floral emblem" of Ireland.
5. Mugwump: originally a bolter from the Republican party in 1884; since an independent in politics.
6. Alabama is called the Cotton State.
7. The Parthenon: a classic temple of Pallas in Athens.
8. The Pied Piper, by his music, drew the plague of rats from Hamelin into the Rhine. The burghers refused his pay and he piped their children into Koppenberg hill, where many of them died.
9. Grover Cleveland served two terms in the presidency, but not consecutively, as he was defeated for re-election in 1888.
10. "A Conservative [illegible]