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CHARACTER—THAT IS THE MAN

THE MAN IS WHAT HIS CHARACTER MAKES HIM, OR WHAT HE MAKES HIS CHARACTER.

How many times we all use the word character, and how rarely we think seriously about it. The servant leaving wants "a good character." The actor has a "character part," often with very little real character in it. One person solemnly says of another, "I can't understand his character at all." The individuals described in a book we call the characters of the book. We speak of the letters that we print, or write, as characters. And the word character is an excellent one for our written letters, since so much of our characters, strong, weak, slovenly, or precise, is written in those little characters that come from our pen.

That is an old word engraved on the rock

in this picture. The Greeks used it, having constructed it out of their word, "charasso," meaning engrave. A very interesting derivation for the word, for truly character is that thing which is engraved upon a man by his own life, and by all the lives that have preceded his, here. A man's character is an engraving. And that engraving is the real man.

The important work of human beings since the Greeks developed their marvellous characters, beginning thirty centuries back, and for a hundred centuries before Greece was ever heard of, has been the forming, the engraving of character.

All changes in civilization, all important

improvements in men, have been changes in character, changes in the engraving that time and thought and struggle have put upon man's brain.

There is no room on this page to do more than call your attention to this picture as one that may be useful to boys or girls, or very young men in your homes. You may help them by showing them the picture and talking to them about it.

Character is man's rock of safety, and his only rock, in this world. If his character is strong, the waves of misfortune, of criticism, of undeserved public contempt will beat against it in vain.

We know that our characters make us what we are. The question is, What can we do to make our characters? Can the coward make himself brave? Perhaps not, since courage, as we commonly understand it, is so often the question of nerve or the absence of nerves. The coward cannot change his character by making himself brave, perhaps, he can do it in another way—by doing what he knows he ought to do, whether he is afraid or not.

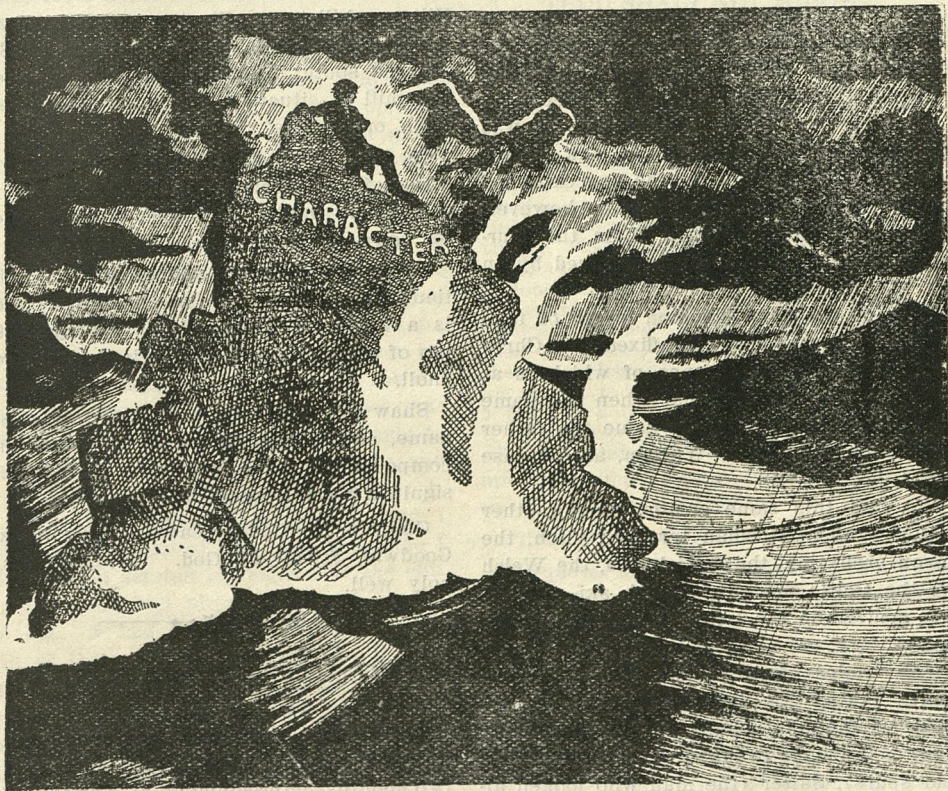
Every man knows in his own heart what his character is, or he can know, if he will study himself alone, and without self-deception.

Every man can know how he would feel if he were the man standing on that rock.

Every man knows where his character is weak, and although some of the world's great men have said that character cannot be changed, or made better, we believe that it can, that it is done every day.

The man who is irregular can force himself into regularity. The man or woman vacillating, changing, can cultivate decision, develop a faculty for reaching a conclusion and sticking to it.

Somebody wrote a line often quoted with admiration, which reads, "Lord of myself, that heritage of woe." That is a fine sounding line, but an inaccurate one. The man



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who is lord of himself, who has character and can control himself, is not the possessor of a "heritage of woe." He is in possession of the most valuable thing a man can have—a thinking mind on an interesting world, and the power to control it and direct it.

We believe that parents can do a great deal for children by talking to them about character, not only seeking to develop character in the children, but teaching the children to develop their own characters.

Teach them frankness, honesty with themselves. When they can learn not to deceive themselves, not to blame others for their shortcomings, not to avoid their share of responsibility, they will have a good foundation upon which to build character.

"Know yourself," the Greeks wrote across the top of their great temple on the hill. The philosophers and the wise men ever since have been repeating it, "know yourself." And men will repeat it for many thousands and hundreds of thousands of years after we half-developed creatures shall have left the earth.

Character is the complex collection of emotions, the desires and impulses that make up a human being, regulated more or less efficiently by the one noble quality of humanity which is the sense of Justice.

If you build your life character, you are upon a rock that won't be shaken. You can build upon a character that puts you above the accidents and weaknesses of the passing hour.

QUAINT FACTS CONCERNING MARRIAGE.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has it in his power to grant a special license for any marriage at any time or place.

Although a Mohammedan woman is not, under any circumstances, allowed to wed an unbeliever, a Moslem has full liberty to marry either a Christian woman or a Jewess.

Amongst American Indians polygamy is extremely rare, although it rules strongly in Africa, and also with the more or less civilised nations of the East.

Bodily infirmity, which renders it dangerous for the defendant to marry, is no defence in a breach of promise action.

With the Ashantis children are counted the kin of their mother, and not of their father, a sister's son inheriting the property, at times, instead of a man's own son.

In the colonies hundreds of Chinamen are married to British women, but it is very rarely that an Englishman takes a Chinese woman to wife.

Amongst the ancient barbarian nations only the Germans were content to have but a single wife.

If a person professing holy orders conducts a marriage in church without the contracting parties knowing that he is an imposter, the marriage is quite valid.

By the man and woman eating out of the same dish the simple marriage ceremony of the Malays and many Eastern people is performed.

In the United States it is a general rule that, if the consent of the contracting parties be proved, no specific form of marriage ceremony is necessary, although, of course, this method is only adopted when extreme haste is necessary.

Whatever the faith of the mother, the child of a Mohammedan father is Mohammedan, and the wife, if an unbeliever, cannot inherit at her husband's death.

Throughout the Scriptures there is no word of priestly consecration of marriages; and with the ancient Hebrews there was no religious marriage ceremony.

In England until recently, all the children of a marriage were under the control of their father, and even after her husband's death the mother had no authority except as his deputy.

Queens are never proposed to, and, in Shropshire, brides never wear green.

Marriage by proxy is not recognised by English law.

May has ever been considered an unlucky month for weddings.

By French law the consent of the parents of the contracting parties must be obtained before marriage.

Marriages in Pennsylvania, to be properly solemnised, must be celebrated before 12 witnesses.

Long before Christian times wedding rings were given and worn by the Jews.

The rule of Morganatic marriage only concerns reigning houses and the higher nobility.

TOASTS.

A young man, giving his distant sweetheart, once said, "Delectable darling, so sweet that honey would blush in her presence, and treacle stand appalled."

In regard to the fair sex, we have—"Woman, she needs no eulogy; she speaks for herself;" and "Woman, the bitter half of man."

A bachelor once gave this toast at a wedding—"Marriage, the gate through which the happy lover leaves his enchanted ground and returns to earth."

At a supper given to a writer of comedies, a wag said—"The writer's very good health. May he live to be as old as his jokes, but never be so dry as any of them."

From a lay critic—"The Bench and the Bar. If it were not for the bar, there would be little use for the Bench."

ABOUT NAMES.

There were no hereditary surnames in England before the time of the Norman conquest. It is true that surnames are given in "Domesday Book," but these were for the most part official and professional, and were not transmitted as family names.

As early as the twelfth century it was thought essential for persons of rank to bear a surname, and gradually the use extended through all the lower classes. Not, however, until the reign of Edward II. in the fourteenth century, was the use enforced by an Act of Parliament.

Perhaps the most common origin of family names is that of a son affixed to a Christian name, the significance of which is at once obvious, showing that when the name was first used as a family name the father was John, Thomas, or William, as the case might be.

We find this same custom among other nations. The Russian terminal vitch, the Saxon prefix ing, the Jewish ben, the Welsh ap, the Celtic mac, the Polish ski—all signify son, while the Irish, O, signifies grandson.

The trades furnish many surnames—Smith taking the lead. Names derived from occupations usually end in er—Potter, Painter, Lorimer (a maker of bits for bridles and spurs), Salter (the man who looked after the salt), Spiller (a maker of spindles or lathes).

The termination ster usually denotes a woman's occupation. Webster is the feminine of Webber; Brewster of Brewer, Dexter was a woman who worked by the day.

Many English surnames were formed from

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words compounded of two or more Anglo-Saxon words.

The termination ham signifies home or place; Burnham is the place of a burn or brook; Buckingham is a place suitable for beeches, or a place for soaking cloth in lye from the ashes of the beech.

Ton was at first an enclosure, later it was a village or town; Leighton is a level town; Hilton a hill town; Clayton and Newton are obvious; Norton is the north town, as Sutton the south; Milton is the village where the mill is situated; Kempton the camp town, or soldiers' village.

Ly indicates a field; Stanley, or Stonly, a strong field; Ashley a field favourable for ash trees; Oakley for oaks; Cowly a field for cows.

By or bi is Danish, and implies a habitation; Byford is a home at the ford; Byfield is a home in the meadow. Knapp is the top of a hill, while Knowles is derived from knoll.

Shaw is sometimes used alone as a surname, and is sometimes the terminal in a compound word, as Henshaw, Grimshaw. It signifies a small wood or copse.

Godfrey is God's peace. Godwin and Goodwin, friend of God. Halliwell is a holy well.

SENT TO PRISON FOR FLIRTING.

Two young men who are members of well-known families, have been sentenced to two months' imprisonment at Newark, New Jersey, for flirting. The complaints against them were made by two shop-girls. The magistrate said he would have imposed a sentence of ten days' imprisonment had the prisoners been ordinary street loafers, but the fact that they belonged to prominent families made their offence much greater.

Only a Chit of a Boy

A blizzard detained a party of travellers in a small railway station. Among other attempts to while away the weary hours, it was suggested that each should confess who had really influenced him most at the turning point of his life. They were all men, and after two had confessed that it had been a mother, one a wife, and another a sister, a fourth, raising his hand and suiting the action to the words, said:

"I must needs lift my hat to a chit of a boy who would scarce come up to my elbow, whom I have never seen but once—and that but for a moment—and whose name I do not even know."

The speaker was a tall, handsome man with a kind eye and genial countenance, and interest was at once expressed in what he had said while a slender, bright-eyed man leaned forward and asked eagerly if he would not tell how it happened, as he was particularly interested in such things. The tall man smilingly assented and described himself as a young man who, through death, had been denied the guiding influence of a mother, and had been left to the care of a father whose thoughts and interest were all centred in the money market. He had been allowed, he said, to go his own sweet way, and with a liberal allowance and no thought for the morrow, he became an easy prey for a set of unscrupulous fellows who were glad to profit by his downfall. He drank and gambled with them, and as he found himself falling lower and lower, he had the feeling that no one cared and that it did not matter.

"I was on my way into a low saloon and gambling den," he said, "to try to retrieve a heavy loss of the night before. It was dusk, and I was in a reckless mood, ready for almost anything, when I felt a tug at my coat and heard a voice say:

"Don't go in there; you'll be sorry."

"I looked down and saw a chit of a boy, and asked in surprise:

"What do you know about it?"

"Why, you see," said the boy, "I'm going to be an evangelist when I grow up, and I'm going to try to keep men from going into such places. When I saw you I thought I'd like to begin now. You are not like the others in there; don't go; you'll be sorry."

"I listened to every word the boy had to say. Then my temper got the better of me and, shaking him off rudely, I cursed him and his evangelism and hurried up the steps. At the top, I stopped. No one had ever before taken enough interest in me to ask me not to go into such a place. The boy was such a little fellow, and I had been rude to him. I went back to speak to him, and followed him, as I supposed, round a corner, but he had disappeared completely, and I could find no trace of him. By this time I had a certain amount of respect for the chit of a boy who had already planned his future life. I had not been brought up to think of that. I had just drifted. I went home and thought it out, my admiration for the boy increasing as I thought of what it must be to look forward to making something out of one's life. I sighed over my own fallen condition, and then began to wonder if it was altogether too late to rise out of it. To make a long story short, gentlemen, that was the turning point of life with me, and I would give much to know what became of that boy. I have been haunted through life with the feeling that my treatment of him may have driven him from the course he had chosen."

"You need not feel so any longer," said the slender man, whose absorbed interest in the story had been noticed by all but the narrator. "I was the boy," he said, rising and holding out his hand, "and you may be interested to know that I have looked upon my first feeble effort, not only as a failure, but as a mistake in one so young."

The story-teller shook him heartily by the hand and assured him he was never so glad to see anyone in all his life.

"Don't ever speak of mistake or failure in my case," he said. "For years now I have been interesting myself in boys and trying to prove to them that they are powerful factors in the world's progress and the work of the Lord." He then expressed a hope that his companion had been successful in his chosen work.

"Fairly so," was the reply. "It is discouraging at times, for so much is done in the dark; as in your case, we do not see the results. This meeting is worth more to me than you can think."

"And to me," said his companion, who had drawn from his pocket a wallet and a stylographic pen. A moment later he handed the evangelist a cheque for £1000.

"For your work," he said. "Accept it as a thank-offering and my apology to a 'chit of a boy.'"

HOW ANIMALS OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

BY EARNEST THOMPSON SETON.

Do the Ten Commandments apply equally to animals as well as to men? Man, replies Mr. E. T. Seton in "The Century," is concerned with all ten, the animals only with the last six. Years ago he formed the theory that the Ten Commandments are the fundamental laws of all creation. In this article he shows how they are obeyed in the animal world.

THOU SHALT NOT MURDER.

Disobedience, he points out, means on the part of the young injury to themselves, and if uncurbed, death to the race. Against murder, he says, there is a deep-rooted feeling in most animals:—

Cannibalism is recorded of many species, but investigation shows that it is rare except in the lowest forms, and among creatures demoralised by domestication or captivity. The higher the animals are, the more repugnant does cannibalism become. It is seldom indulged in except under dire stress of famine. Nothing but actual starvation induced Nansen's dogs to eat the flesh of their comrades, although it was offered to them in a disguised form. Experience shows me that it is useless to bait a wolf-trap with a part of a dead wolf. His kinsmen shun it in disgust, unless absolutely famished.

The law against murder has been hammered into the animal creature by natural selection until it is fully established.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT.

He quotes many illustrations as proof that the animal world has long been groping after an ideal form of marriage. Those species which have developed an instinctive recognition of the Seventh Commandment have been the most successful. Monogamy is the rule among all the higher and most successful animals:—

There are four degrees of monogamy. One, in which the male stays with one female as long as she interests him or desires a mate, then changes to another; for his season may be many times as long as hers. Thus he may have several wives in the season, but only one at a time. This is convenient for both parties, but it is open to the same objection as frank polygamy. It is the way of the moose. A second kind, in which the male and one female are paired for that breeding season only, the male staying with the fa-

mily, and sharing the care of the young until they are well grown; after which the parents may or may not resume their fellowship. This is admirable. It is seen in hawks. A third, in which the pair consort for life, but the death of one leaves the other free to mate again. This is ideal. It is the way of wolves. A fourth, in which they pair for life, and in case of death the survivor remains disconsolate and alone to the end. This seems absurd. It is the way of the geese.

MEN AND ANIMAL MORALS.

Man has always been ruinous to the morals of animals, in proof of which Mr. Seton says:—

One of the great difficulties besetting the growing of blue-foxes for their fur, on the islands of the Behring Sea, is what has been called the obstinate and deplorable monogamy of those animals. The breeders are working hard to break down this high moral sentiment and produce a blue-fox that does not object to polygamy, promiscuity, or any other combination, and so remove all sentimental obstacles to their experiments.

THE PROPERTY SENSE.

The property idea among animals is highly developed. The animal law is: the producer owns the product; unproduced property belongs to him who discovers and possesses it. Ownership is indicated in two ways—one by actual possession, the other by ownership marks. Of these there are two kinds—smell marks and visible marks. By far the more important are those of smell:—

I once threw peanuts for an hour to the fox squirrels in City Hall Park, Madison, Wisconsin. In each case the peanut, when thrown, was no one's property. All the near squirrels rushed for it; the first one to get it securely in his mouth was admittedly the owner; his claim was never questioned after a few seconds' actual possession. If hungry, he ate it at once; otherwise his first act was to turn it round in his mouth three or four times, as he licked it, marking it with his own smell, before burying it for future use.

COVETOUSNESS PUNISHED.

In illustration of the Commandment against covetousness, Mr. Seton tells the following story:—

Under the barn eaves at his home, a colony of swallows had for long been established. In the spring of 1885 a pair of bluebirds came and took forcible possession of one of the nests. The owners first tried to oust the invaders, next the whole swallow colony joined in the attempt, without success. The bluebird inside was entrenched behind hard mud walls, and defied them. At length the swallows came in a body, each with a pellet of mud, and walled up the entrance to the nest. The bluebird in possession starved to death, and was found there ten days later.

BEGINNINGS OF A SPIRITUAL LIFE.

The first four Commandments have a purely spiritual bearing, and do not affect animals. They have, however, Mr. Seton is inclined to believe, some dim unconscious feeling of their existence:—

When the animals are in terrible trouble, when they have done all that they can do, and are face to face with despair and death, there is then revealed in them an instinct, deep-laid—and deeper-laid as the animal is higher which prompts them in their dire extremity to throw themselves on the mercy of some other power, not knowing, indeed, whether it be friendly or not, but very sure

Perhaps, says Mr. Seton, this is the beginning of a spiritual life in animal nature that would respond to the first four Commandments.

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WHAT JACK TAR EATS AND DRINKS.

"The pig, sir," said the steward of a certain merchantman, a few years ago, to the captain, "won't eat the potatoes got for him." "All right; give 'em to the men," was the terse reply, and to the men they were given, according to one who sailed in that particular vessel. Navy rations have never been quite so bad as that, although we have read of ship-biscuits being used to holy-stone the deck, and of pork so rank that the man who opened a barrel required a treble allowance of grog to combat the fumes.

There are not many Jack Tars in the Navy to-day, however, who have much fault to find with the victuals. No effort is spared by the Admiralty to see that the food provided for the men is of the best quality, and nothing is allowed to go out of the Victualling Dockyard at Deptford until it has been thoroughly tested, and passed as sound, by His Majesty's inspectors.

Recently, however, as the result of investigations made by a canteen committee, certain new arrangements have been made for the victualling of the Fleet. Hitherto the full Navy ration per day per man consisted of the following articles: 1½lb. of ship-biscuit or 1½lb. of soft bread, ½ pt. of spirit, 3oz. sugar, 1oz. chocolate, ¼oz. of tea, 1lb. fresh meat; and ¼lb. fresh vegetables when these were procurable; otherwise 1lb. salt pork, with one third pt. split peas, or 1lb of salt beef, with 9oz. flour, three quarter oz. suet, and 1½ oz. of raisins. On alternate salt beef days 2oz. preserved potatoes. Every week, too, Jack Tar got ¼pt. oatmeal, ½oz. mustard, ¼oz. pepper, ½pt. vinegar.

This standard ration was valued approximately at 10d. per day, there being a savings system allowed by which sailors were entitled to money in lieu of any provisions not "taken up," to quote the official expression, with which money relishes could be bought at the canteen. In order, however, that men in the Navy may obtain as much variety as possible, a standard Government ration valued approximately at 6d., together with a messing allowance of 4d. per diem, has been substituted for the tenpenny ration and savings system, the messing allowance being available not only for expenditure on luxuries in the canteen, but also for buying Government provisions on board in addition to the standard ration.

The reduction in the cost of the standard ration is only, of course, brought about by a reduction in the quantity of food served out per man; and for his mess allowance of 4d., Jack Tar will in future have to be content with ¼lb. of bread, ¼lb. fresh meat, ¼lb. salt pork, three-quarters lb. biscuit, and ¼oz. chocolate less than he has been in the habit of having. His allowance of sugar, however, has been increased by 1oz. and tea by ¼oz. per day, with the option of drawing 1oz. of coffee for ¼oz. of tea, mustard, pepper, vinegar, and salt being issued as required; while amongst other benefits of the new system, sea-going ships, when alongside or in the basins at the home ports, are to be permitted to draw fresh milk in lieu of condensed milk.

The yearly food bill of the Navy amounts to about one and a half million sterling, and 500 men are employed all the year round at the Victualling Yard at Deptford, preparing and packing the goods required for Jack Tar's pantry.

Some idea of the requirements of the Navy may be gathered from the quantity of stores handled in the Yard during the course of twelve months. These include 3½ million pounds of sugar, 1½ million pounds preserved meat, 100,000 lb. rice, 428,000lb. tea, and 1½ million pounds biscuit, after consuming which Jack smokes 500,000lb. of strip or leaf tobacco and 80,000 half-pound tins in his after-dinner pipe, and washes the whole down with 358,000 gallons of the finest kind of rum obtainable.

A FATAL COMPROMISE.

A medical man, who has made a life-study of alcoholism, tells the following tragic story of an upholsterer who had been the victim of drink for many years:

"Ten years ago," he said, "he got so bad that I had a job to get him through. When he was able to listen I told him that another spree would wind him up for a certainty. He told me there wasn't going to be another one.

"He lasted for six straight years, subjecting himself to a veritable torture of temptation all the time at that. On the day when he went back to work in his shop after that last spree he got a quart bottle of fine old

Kentucky Bourbon whisky with a rich bouquet.

"This, after loosening the cork, he placed on a little shelf immediately above his work bench. Then he went to work with that bottle of whisky right before his eyes. Every once in a while he'd reach up, take the bottle from the shelf, remove the cork, and take long gloating smells of the whisky.

"You're never going to down me again, blast you!" he'd say to the bottle, as he smelled of the whisky. 'I've got you beat! See. I can just fool with you, make a blooming toy of you, and still you can't nail me!' and then with a final smell at the bottle he'd cork it up again, put it back on the shelf, and resume his work.

"This sort of thing he kept up for six years without ever taking so much as a sip.

"I told the man frequently that he was torturing himself unnecessarily, that he was racking his nerves without any reason, and that eventually he'd become the victim of an irresistible impulse to drink the whisky.

"No, I won't," he'd protest. 'The stuff made a fool of me for a good many years, and now I'm getting hunk.'

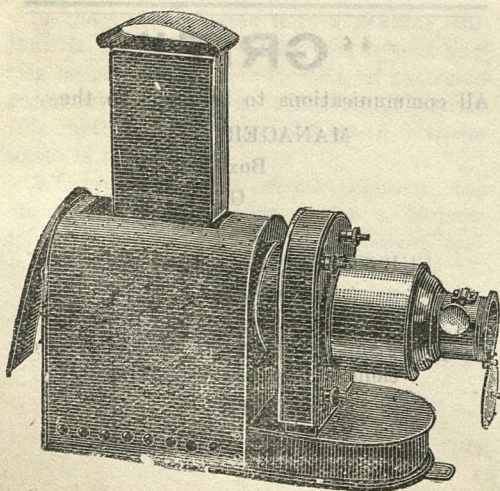
"It was a sort of obsession, of course, but it was phenomenal that the man could have been able to carry it along for six years. I should have liked to have my prediction in his case break against me, but it didn't.

"One forenoon in the seventh year of abstinence he was going through his stunt of breathing the bouquet of the shelf bottle into his nostrils and gloating over his triumph over it, when the moment of irresistible impulse arrived. He put the bottle to his lips and never stopped gulping it till he had swallowed the whole quart. Then he fell off his bench in a state of coma, and I couldn't get to him until after he was dead."

The sculptor was working on a statue of Melancholy.

"May I ask what you are doing?" inquired the visitor.

"Cutting a sorry figure," said the sculptor, scowling at him.



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Talk about People

The Yorkshire Captain.

Lord Hawke, the captain of Yorkshire's first county cricketing team, is the subject of a healthy ferment in Yorkshire. The testimonial which is being raised to celebrate the twenty-fifth year of his captaincy promises in spirit and liberality worthily to express the feeling of the whole county toward their famous countryman. Some of the finest tributes to his leadership are not finding press publicity. Among the circle of his intimate friends and "men" who have served under him it is being recalled how he has transformed the inward life and ideals of his team. Abstemious himself, any licence in relation to intoxicants has been socially blackballed, until for many years now the team has been most exemplary. Parents who have been aware of the perils of a sporting career have felt quite comfortable while their sons have been under the wing of Lord Hawke. An intimate associate has recalled a characteristic incident. As "second in command," he went up to Lord Hawke's bedroom the last thing at night. His lordship was reading the Book of Books. "Are all the men in?" he asked. "Yes." "Now I can go to rest," he replied. "Good night." It has been the good man behind the clever cricketer that has evoked the remarkable devotion of those who, under his leadership have won for the county the proud position it holds in relation to England's most popular game.

Crowned Heads at Lunch.

A remarkable number of Royal personages were brought together in England recently, owing to the coincidence of the Bourbon-Orleans wedding with the visits of the Spanish and German sovereigns. In consequence there gathered round King Edward's board at luncheon in Windsor Castle on Sunday, November 17, such an assembly of Royalties as is rarely seen except on very great State occasions of a Coronation or the like. The King's party of twenty-four included three kings and five queens. The following is the complete list:—

King Edward and Queen Alexandra.
The German Emperor and Empress.
The King and Queen of Spain.
The Queen of Portugal.
The Queen of Norway.
The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Vladimir of Russia.
The Infanta Isabel of Spain.
Prince and Princess Johann Georg of Saxony.
The Duchess d'Aosta.
The Prince and Princess of Wales.
The Princess Royal and the Duke of Fife.
Princess Victoria.
The Duke and Duchess of Connaught.
Prince Arthur of Connaught.
Princess Victoria Patricia of Connaught.
Princess Henry of Battenberg.

The luncheon took place in the State Dining Room, and afterwards in the crimson Drawing Room, overlooking the East Terrace, the illustrious party, reinforced by the little Prince Olaf, was photographed collectively and in various groups.

When the King Travels.

The King's train, specially built for His Majesty by the London and North-Western Railway Company, was used for the recent Royal journey from Balmoral to London. It is interesting to learn apropos of this train, that whereas some Continental Sovereigns have had railway coaches built for them at the expense of the State or of their own privy purse, the Royal trains provided by this railway and two or three of the other English companies have been constructed at the companies' own expense. They then remain the railway's property, the mem-

bers of the Royal Family paying their fares like ordinary passengers, with merely the usual charge for a special train. The most elaborate precautions are taken to ensure the safety of the King's train, a pilot engine running fifteen minutes in advance throughout the entire journey. The train itself contains a saloon designed for His Majesty, with a smoking-room, a day saloon, a bedroom, and dressing-room, all equipped with handsome furniture.

Will Mr. Bryan Win the Presidency?

Mr. W. J. Bryan, the silvery-tongued orator, will again stand as America's Democratic candidate when the Presidential election takes place in November, 1908. He has been twice beaten at the polls—viz., in 1896 and 1900, but Mr. Bryan has set his heart upon occupying White House, and he is encouraged to hope that a third try will meet with success by a remarkable prophecy. Just before the 1900 election Mr. Bryan met a lady well known as a famous traveller. During the course of conversation this lady remarked: "Do you object to an old woman, almost old enough to be your grandmother, speaking a few frank words to you, Mr. Bryan?" Mr. Bryan bowed. "I think," she continued, "that you are as strong a man as I have seen in this country. But I also think that it would be a misfortune for you if you won this election—and I hope you won't. Let me tell you why. You are still a young man—about forty, I believe. In ten years' time you will be fifty, and, if I mistake not, twice the man you are, both in strength and knowledge. Shall I go on?" Mr. Bryan laughed, "By all means." Thereupon, in effect, if not in so many words, his candid critic told him that ten years of study, travel, and observation would make another man of him, and so strong that it would be very hard to beat him if he again cared to fight for the Presidency. Since that meeting Mr. Bryan has followed the advice given to him, and now most of those who know him and have watched his career closely prophesy that at the end of next year he will occupy White House.

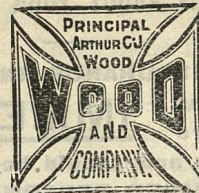
Monarchs and Their Incomes.

Judging by the incomes allowed them by the countries over which they reign, King Leopold of Belgium is one of the poorest of European monarchs. He receives only £175,000 a year, but his business interests bring him in five or six times that amount. King Alfonso can spend his allowance of £357,000 pretty much as he pleases, provision being made for other members of the Spanish Royal Family outside this sum. He is, in fact, better off than King Edward, who, although he receives £470,000 a year, has to set aside nearly three-quarters of his income for household expenses, salaries, pensions, charities, and rewards. The German Emperor's expenses, too, are very great, and he finds it no easy matter at times to make both ends meet with his allowance of £130,000 as German Emperor and the salary of £787,500 which he draws as King of Prussia. The Emperor of Austria, who, is, of course, King of Hungary, also has two salaries, the amount in each case being nearly £562,000, while the King of Italy receives £750,000 a year.

Some Ancient Jokes.

Cicero, the famous orator, on a certain occasion, when he heard Fabia, a prominent woman of fashion, say she was 30 years old, slyly remarked, "That's true, for I've heard her say it for the last 20 years."

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Socrates, who doubtless had reason for thinking as he did, on account of his shrewish wife, Xantippe, used to say when he was asked whether it was better to marry or not, "Whichever you do, you will regret it;" and once, on being asked what act of their lives people most commonly repented of, he replied, "Marriage."

Plutarch, the author of the "Lives," tells the following:—"A man, angry at a dog, picked up a stone and threw it at the animal. He missed the dog and happened to hit his mother-in-law, who was standing near. Whereupon he turned to the bystanders and remarked, 'Not so bad after all!'"

Pausanias, the Spartan General, when asked why he spoke evil of a doctor whom he had never consulted, he said: "If I had consulted him I shouldn't now be speaking either good or evil about anybody."

Plutarch tells of a barber who, trimming the beard of a certain King Archelaus, asked, "How shall I cut it?" "In silence," replied the King.

A Greek epigram tells of an ungrounded scandal in this fashion. "Some say, Nicylla, that you dye your hair. What nonsense! Why it's as black as can be bought in the market."

Antiochus once set eyes on Lysimachus' cushion, and Lysimachus never set eyes on his cushion again.

"Who's there," came a sleepy voice.

"Grover Cleveland."

"Well, what do you want?"

"I want to stay here all night," was the response.

"All right, stay there."

WHY WORRY ABOUT YOUR INSURANCES?

"THE INSURANCE INTERESTS of a Business House are **IMMENSELY** important, and should be looked after by a **TRAINED PERSON.**"

—Extract from Report of Special Committee on Insurance; Settlements incident to the SAN FRANCISCO FIRE.

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Anthony Hordern & Sons publicly thanked A. B. P. & Co. in the 4 Sydney Dailies after their great fire for the way they looked after their **Insurances.**

GRIT.

A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE.

"Grit, clear Grit."—A pure Americanism, standing for Pluck, or Enerv, or Industry, or all three. Reference is probably had to the sandstones used for grindstones—the more grit they contain the better they wear.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1908.

PLEDGE-SIGNING.

Hadley, the reclaimed drunkard, who spent 16 years winning drunkards to Christ, used to say: "We never place much value on a bankrupt's signature, and the drunkard is a moral bankrupt every time." Since, however, we never know what moral reserves are in a man, it is worth while trying the experiment of a pledge, and thus spurring the flagging energies of the will to make one more effort to resist. It will not be in the police court that the pledge will be most useful, though we are glad of the American experiment, which is already being tried in Victoria, to substitute the pledge for punishment in the courts, but it will be among the young, who, taking the pledge, and learning to take a pride in their word of honour, will go through life without tasting the seductive poison of alcohol.

The young girls who thoughtlessly take wine, and the parents who foolishly deride the pledge, are responsible for lives and homes ruined. Let us honour those who take a pledge, acknowledging the wisdom and reasonableness of it, and only good can follow. Those who talk of not believing in a pledge must be reminded of the marriage pledge, and shown by analogy how

foolish such talk is. The day must come when a second Father Matthew will arise and win thousands to take the pledge of abstinence, and this will be more effective than any legislation. The way to intemperance is paved with mild stimulants, and the only safe way, as well as the most effective way, is that of total abstinence.

WHARF LABOURERS' THIRST.

An innovation, which is much appreciated, has been introduced in connection with the newly-formed Wharf Labourers' Co-operative Society, Victoria, which has its headquarters situated, remote from population, on the north side of the Victoria Dock. As was reported in the Melbourne "Age" a few days ago, the society brews its own drink for sale, and it is non-alcoholic hop-beer, which the men appear to relish even more than the drink lately described in the divorce court as "swill." On the opening day of the society's rooms 200 pint pots of the new beverage were feverishly emptied by perspiring, coal-begrimed labourers, and it has now become so generally favoured that the society has purchased a special vehicle to convey it to all the wharfs on the river, retailing it at 2d per pint. The men are thus enabled to obtain healthy liquid refreshment whilst at work, and arrangements are being made whereby they may purchase a shillingworth of tickets at their pay offices, when receiving their wages, entitling them to six pints of hop-beer—one drink per day for a working week.

SEARED CONSCIENCES.

The revelations that have been made in Bendigo and elsewhere during the last few months as to the practice of gold-stealing, and which is alleged to be so prevalent in some of the mines, is further evidence to the fact that conscience is not the Divine standard between right and wrong, and that in many respects the evil influence of this strenuous and materialistic age tends to dwarf men's consciences, if not to sear them as with a hot iron. Just as there are some people who choose not to see wrong in evading the Customs, or riding on a tram-car without paying the fare, provided they can dodge the conductor, there are others who find it convenient to acquit their consciences of dishonest motives when taking what does not belong to them, by the specious reasoning that, as certain things, such as silver and gold, are common property, to fill one's pockets with nuggets which they are paid to mine for their employers is not robbery, but simply sharing a common heritage. The best, or rather the worst, commentary on such conscienceless logic is the methods employed to compass their ends by the men who thus ignore the obligations of the moral law. It is a sorry thing to reflect that there seems to be a growing looseness of morality among men and women, for which we fear the unhealthy desire to get rich, along with the gambling fever, which infects people in a hundred different ways,

is chiefly responsible. Honesty is the best policy, but how many there are who, like the Irishman, try to do without it.

ANOTHER JOURNALISTIC METEOR.

The Licensed Victuallers have had many champions. The rapid succession of their secretaries and official newspaper apologists, if not apostolic, has been as transient and vivid as a meteor. It must be killing work trying to defend a doomed trade for the successive champions seem to be as shortlived as the mosquito. Even in their newspaper ventures the brewers and publicans are unable to guarantee respectable longevity. Interest, however, attaches to the announcement that the Liquor Trades Defence Union have adopted as their official organ a new weekly paper to be conducted by Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald, Barrister-at-law, as the proprietor, and to be styled "Fairplay." A circular to the trade urges the "imperative necessity" of such an organ at "this critical time," and sets forth that the new journal will "Place the true claims of the trade before the public, correct the misstatements of opponents, educate public men on a question which is often misunderstood, rally liquor traders for purposes of mutual defence and assistance, furnish the Union with a powerful weapon which can be used for the benefit of the whole trade, keep liquor traders in touch with the latest movements of interest to them." Quite a nice little programme, truly, but very difficult of accomplishment. The editor has taken on a Herculean contract. He will find it a very easy task to please the Trade, but to convince the public as to the claims of the brewer and publican will be a much more difficult one, and to stem the tide of public sentiment in favour of No-License, impossible.

THREE THINGS WHICH A WIFE SHOULD BE LIKE.

WHICH THREE THINGS SHE SHOULD NOT BE LIKE.

A wife, domestic, good and pure,
Like a snail should keep within her door;
But not like a snail in silvered track,
Place all her wealth upon her back.

A wife should be like Echo, true,
And speak but when she's spoken to;
But not like Echo still be heard
Contending for the final word.

Like a Town Clock a wife should be,
Keep time and regularity;
But not like Clock—harangue so clear
That all the town her voice might hear.

Young man! If these allusions strike—
She whom as bride you'd hail,
Must just be like and yet unlike
An Echo, Clock, and Snail.
—"Worcester Herald" (Eng.), June 20, 1807.

In the same paper of June 27, 1807:—
Strange are the lines you print, my friend,
I can't your similes commend;
What, then, must soften man's afflictions,
If good wives prove but contradictions?

"I admire a man," said Uncle Eben, "dat keeps hopin' foh de best. But I doean' like to see him sit down an' call it a day's work."

☞ The Ways of Sly Grog ☞

When the pot calls the kettle black we mostly smile, and when the devil reproves sin we usually sneer. Now the Liquor Trade, by its condemnation of drinking in the home, and its denunciation of the sly-grog seller, has placed us in the position of wanting to smile and sneer at the same time. In mining camps and in the city, week days and Sundays alike, there always has been sly-grog selling, even when the licensed places have been numerous and flourishing, and we must look to some other cause than the new Liquor Act for this kind of lawlessness in our midst. There is no law on the Statute Book that is not broken from time to time, and when the law comes into conflict with animal appetite and social custom, it will continue to be broken until moral and social changes are brought about by the spread of religion and education.

THE SLY-GROGGER.

Often a decent kind of man or woman will engage in this business because they want money, and sly-grogging seems, like gambling, a bit risky, but a quick way of getting it; more often a publican is responsible, who simply uses some person or place as a distributing avenue, and then again it may be taken on by those whose ordinary business is a cloak on the one hand, and the grog is a draw on the other hand, to increase custom.

Money, and money at any price, is the incentive that lies behind this business, and the drink crave makes it a success, producing, as it does, a class of customer who will pay any price, and stoop to any depth, to get what his diseased nature demands.

THE CUSTOMERS.

One may roughly divide them into two classes—the young men who have money and no power to enjoy life until they are half intoxicated, who will have it at any price, since it is necessary to keep the “fun” going—and the larger class who, after work or out of work, have no amusements, unless it is a dog fight or some other kind of fight, who play no games, read no books, attend no meetings, not even political ones, have no way of passing the time so agreeably as “swilling” beer. In appearance they are not prepossessing, as their money does not go on clothing, and their distaste for water inside or out is only too evident. They are quicker with their fists and feet than their tongues, and argument is wasted on them. A policeman has more power to impress them than a parson, though they are contemptuous of both.

PUBLICANS' METHODS.

Before the present Act the publican had an easy time of it. He certainly closed his bar, but the bathroom upstairs made an excellent substitute. Strangers who were not in the know never ceased to wonder at the constant inquiry for and use of the bathroom on Sundays. This method has been made obsolete by the new Liquor Act. In crowded parts the house next door becomes the convenient avenue for distributing “poison.” This means a back entrance, a hole in the wall, or some other unobtrusive but useful way. The back lane is much used and is fairly safe, since a good lookout is kept, and a small crowd will stand or sit around the front, while a large unsuspected crowd is in the back lane having a “wet” time.

Another method is for a cab to drive up and a man with a portmanteau will get in and drive away, but his luggage consists in bottles only, and his destination an empty house, an old stable, or any place of quiet

appearance. This cab may come and go with impunity, and be in the employ of the publican.

OTHER GROGGERS' METHODS.

Fruit shops, restaurants, boarding-houses, and places of ill fame may all, under cover of their professed business, do a bit in the distribution of “snake juice.” Then the common method of “a bob in and the winner shouts” leads to groups of men sending for what they want, and having a “gorgeous” time.

A newspaper man from Wellington, N.Z., went to a No-License area to find out by personal experience, and thus described how he got grog:—“I was advised to go to a dirty-looking place, and was met by a villainous-looking man. The moment I stepped inside the door was locked, and I was taken into a dark room, where, by candlelight, I drank some vile stuff, and was hurried out by another door. My experience makes me think the sly-grogger is practically harmless.”

POCKET-PEDDLING.

This is an American method, and has been tried in New Zealand, and, it is now said, is becoming common in New South Wales. As it means taking your drink on the run, as it were, and as the peddler can carry only a small quantity, and can sell only to those he is sure of, it has limitations that make it unnecessary to worry very much over.

NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCE.

Last year, in the No-License areas of Clutha, Ashburton, Oamaru, Invercargill, Grey Lynn, and Maitaia, containing a population of about 68,500 people, there were only 27 convictions for sly-grog selling.

In the first twelve months of No-License in Invercargill, with a population of 18,000, there were only five convictions for sly-grog. And in these areas, in the absence of licensed places, sly-grog is soon seen and easier to catch. Now take a comparison: In 1898 there were 30 convictions for sly-grog selling in Auckland, which is abundantly well supplied with licensed places as even Sydney, and in Clutha, where there are no licenses, there were only 10 convictions. In the face of these facts, we cannot accept the theory put forth by Mr. Power that the new Act is responsible for the increase in sly-grog in New South Wales.

MR WADE ON SLY-GROG SELLING.

Mr. Wade said:—“It must be borne in mind that, although apparently there may have been an increase in the amount of sly-grog selling, after all it only means selling without a license during prohibited hours, and whilst there is an apparent increase on one hand, there is undoubtedly a diminution in the consumption of liquor during prohibited hours. Again, the law has been much more rigorously enforced in respect to illegal sales of liquor during the last two years than had been the case before, and many instances are now brought to light which previously would have escaped notice.”

THE REMEDY.

It has been usual to commence with a £30 fine, and this has evidently not deterred the sly-grogger, which is a further evidence of the money there must be in the business. Like “two-up” it will go when the police are determined and backed up by a law and by magistrates that will commit to gaol without the option of a fine. When Premier Wade and Chief Inspector Garvin understand that the public insist that this degrading and objectionable business must be stopped, then it will be stopped.

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Annual Income £2,900,000

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CASH BONUS DIVIDED FOR ONE YEAR, 1906, £664,693.

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General Manager and Actuary: Richard Teece, F.I.A., F.F.A., F.S.S. Secretary: Robert B. Cameron. Manager Industrial Department: H. W. Apperly.

Sydney, 27th September, 1907.

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THE FAMOUS “MAS-DE-LA-VILLE” WINE
Recommended by the Rev. T. Spurgeon and others.

This wonderful Wine is a perfectly natural and, therefore, an ideal drink. The “MAS DE LA VILLE” WINES stand in the same relation to ordinary wines as fresh milk does to sour.

Chateau Peyron (white label), Chateau Badet, L'Arlesienne (blue label), Champagne (gold label).

Reputed Pints, 1/6 and 1/9 per Bottle
Reputed Quarts, 2/6 and 2/9 per Bottle
Larger Sizes 2/11 and 3/6 per Bottle
Sample Bottles of Sacramental Chateau-Badet, 1/- each.

Champagne 2/6 and 3/9 per Bottle

AN IDEAL WINE FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION.

In fermented wine the grape sugar (the best thing in the grape) is consumed by the microbe, but in the unfermented, non-alcoholic, French wine, the grape sugar remains.

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HE SHUT THE WINDOW.

There is a certain old gentleman who par-takes of the qualities of the diamond as it is mined, but whose lack of "polish" is a sad trial to his eldest daughter. The old gentleman, as he expresses it, "got thar with both feet when some dude investors come pirutin' round the range." Not long ago the family were gathered in the library, one of the windows of which was open.

"That air——" the father began, but was quickly interrupted.

"Father, dear, don't say 'that air'—say 'that there,'" the daughter admonished.

"Well, this ear——" he again attempted, but was as quickly brought to a halt.

"Nor 'this 'ere;' 'this here' is correct," he was told.

The old gentleman rose with an angry snort. "Look here, Mary," he said, with asperity. "Of course I know you have been to school and all that, but I reckon I know what I want to say, an' I'm going to say it. I believe I feel cold in this ear from that air and I'm going to shut the window!"

EXCOMMUNICATED FOR SMOK- ING.

The old-time citizens smoked even in church. All such offenders were excommunicated by Urban VIII. in 1624, and again by Innocent XII. in 1690.

There was William Breendon, too, vicar of Thornton, England, of whom the astrologer Lilly says that "when he had no tobacco he would cut the bell-ropes and smoke them."

Prohibitions of the custom were frequent. "Item, you shall not utter," enjoins an ale-house license of the time of James I., "nor willingly suffer to be utter'd, drunke, or taken, any tobacco within your house, cellar, or other place thereunto belonging."

Charles II. sent a letter to the University of Cambridge, forbidding the members to wear periwigs, smoke tobacco, or read their sermons. A writer has recorded a visit to an Essex church about 1830 on which he saw pipes stowed ready for use on the following Sunday.

NEXT LICENSING BILL.

TEMPERANCE REPLY TO "THE TRADE."

The British Temperance League has replied to the statement recently submitted to the Government by the Licensed Victuallers' Central Protection Society of London, which urged that the liquor trade should not be unduly interfered with in forthcoming licensing legislation.

The League controverts the statement of the Licensed Victuallers "that the settlement effected by the Licensing Acts, 1872 and 1874, has now been in operation for upwards of thirty years, and has worked to the satisfaction of those who have had the administration of the licensing laws and the

supervision from outside of licensed houses."

The league asserts that "no settlement was effected by the Acts of 1872 and 1874," and "profound dissatisfaction, not 'satisfaction,' with the present licensing system has been the national note expressed, as evidenced by the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1878, and the Royal Commission on the Licensing Laws in 1896; and the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration."

They point out that the law at present protects "the liquor trade in its parasitic work upon the community. The trade preys upon the public, and prospers as it reduces members of the public to drunkenness, pauperism, criminality, lunacy, and squalor, poverty, and demoralization generally."

SOME COSTLY SLIPPERS.

It would surprise most people, said a London West-end bootmaker, to know of the huge sums which some of the rich aristocracy spend on shoes, especially on slippers. Only the other day a countess whose name is familiar to everyone had a pair of slippers made which were decorated in a picture pattern, like a pair of worked slippers, with precious stones, these being largely rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. The result was exceedingly beautiful, but the cost was over £4500.

There is one accomplished workman in London whose sole occupation is that of mounting fancy slippers with jewels. The present Countess Dowager of X—some years ago had made—her husband was then alive, and gave the order—a pair of slippers, in which she was to appear as Cinderella at a fancy-dress ball given by the Duke of Manchester. The slippers were one mass of diamonds, the value of the stones being considerably over £12,000, while the cost of mounting them was upwards of £150.

A South American gentleman not long since presented to a foreign singer, then in London, a pair of slippers ornamented with two butterflies of different patterns in precious stones, the cost being nearly £4000. But in reality it is quite a common thing for slippers ornamented with gold threads and jewels, and valued at from one to one thousand guineas, to be supplied, and many brides on their honeymoon are furnished with even ordinary boots, shoes and slippers to the value of £200 or so.

THE INVENTOR OF SPECTACLES.

The name of the inventor of spectacles is not known with certainty. Popular opinion pronounced in favour of a Florentine monk as the rightful claimant. M. Spoon, in his "Researches, Curieuseses d'Antiquite," fixes the date of the invention or discovery of spectacles between the years 1280 and 1311, and says that Alexandre de Spina, having

DIET and HEALTH.

Our bodies are built up from the food we eat. There is a constant breaking down of the tissues of the body, every movement of every organ involves waste, and this waste is repaired from our food. Each organ of the body requires its share of nutrition. The brain must be supplied with its portion; the bones, muscles and nerves demand theirs.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HEALTH, A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF GOOD NOURISHING FOOD IS NEEDED.

It is a wonderful process that transforms the food into blood, and uses this blood to build up the various parts of the body; but this process is going on continually, supplying with life and strength each nerve, muscle, and tissue. Where wrong habits of diet have been indulged, there should be no delay in reform. When dyspepsia has resulted from abuse of the stomach, efforts should be carefully made to preserve the remaining strength of the vital forces, by removing every overtaxing burden. The stomach may never entirely recover health after long abuse; but a proper course of diet will save further debility, and many will recover more or less fully.

The Sanitarium Health Food Cafe

supplies the food that repairs the waste tissue.

Address: ROYAL CHAMBERS,
45 Hunter Street, City.

Write for descriptive price lists.

seen a pair made by some other person who was unwilling to communicate the secret of their construction, ordered a pair, discovered the secret, and forthwith made it public.

Italian antiquarians say that the person to whom Spina was indebted for his information was Salvino, who died in 1318, and quote from an ancient manuscript his epitaph, which says—"Here lies Salvino Arnota de Armati, of Florence, the inventor of spectacles. May God pardon his sins."

FIRE INSURANCE.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE.

Established 1809.

Paid up Capital and Fire Funds, £3,650,000;
Total Funds, £17,800,000.

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LOCAL BOARD: MARK SHELDON, Esq.;
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All Classes of Fire Insurance.

Country Agents Required.

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IS THE PUREST
AND BEST

WADE'S
CORN FLOUR

ASK YOUR
GROCER FOR IT

ASK FOR

Pearson's
Sand Soap

AND TAKE NO OTHER.

From Seven to Seventeen

THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' OWN.

(BY UNCLE BARNABAS).

This week I have to ask my young friends to learn and think over the following jingle:—

"If your lips would keep from slips,
Five things observe with care:
Of whom you speak, to whom you speak,
And how, and when, and where."

Words are like seeds that the wind blows away, that can never be picked up again, and that take root in most unexpected places. One of the prettiest flowering plants I have in my garden isn't in my garden, if you will excuse that Irishman's way of putting it. It is growing right in the gravelled yard, dangerously near to a clothes-prop, too! It came there by accident; a seed was just dropped in passing! And it seems as if it meant to stay. We have had our table adorned with its flowers when the other plants in the garden had no flowers to spare. Now, our words are like that. They take root, do those words we speak "without thinking." Let us be sure that we are sowing flower seeds, and not Bathurst burrs or sorrel. I heard that one of the bad weeds in our district came as seed in the tails and manes of a mob of horses! Don't drop weeds with your jokes. It may take a lifetime to get a nasty joke out of somebody's heart and mind!

"Words are things of little cost,
Quickly spoken, quickly lost;
We forget them, but they stand,
Witnesses at God's right hand.
And a testimony bear,
For us or against us there."

Here is a good prayer to suit us all:—
"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth;
Keep the door of my lips!"

PUZZLES.

(Send your answers to Uncle B., Box 390, G.P.O., Sydney.)

1—ABOUT TRAINS.

Suppose it to take exactly seven days to cross America in a railway train. Suppose one train a day leaves from the East and one train a day leaves at exactly the same moment from the West. Now suppose you start to-day from East to West, how many of the West to East trains will you see on your journey?

2—WHAT IS ON THE CLOCK-FACE?

No! don't look, but take a piece of pencil and paper and try to show the Roman numerals (I, II, etc), exactly as they are on the face of your clock or watch. Although you have looked so often at them, I shall be surprised if you can put them down correctly, unless you have tried it before. Let me know how you get along!

SUNDAY PROBLEM.

The initial letters of the words will make the name of a queer animal mentioned in the Book of Job. 1. The first letter of the 5th word in Ps. 27: 1. 2. The 5th word of verse 3. 3. The 9th word of verse 7. 4. The 19th word of verse 6. 5. The 4th word of verse 10. 6. The 1st word of verse 11. 7. The 22nd word of verse 5. 8. The 7th word of verse 2. 9. The 9th word of verse 9.

ANSWER.

To arrange the numbers 1 to 16 in a square, so as to make the sum of any row equal to 34:—

| | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 16 | 3 | 2 | 13 |
| 5 | 10 | 11 | 8 |
| 9 | 6 | 7 | 12 |
| 4 | 15 | 14 | 1 |

GREAT ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK.

Jan. 2nd.—Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India, 1877. What is there on our coins to remind us of our interest in India?

Jan. 4th.—Dampier landed on the coast of Australia, 1686.—A man who found a continent, but did not possess it.

Jan. 6th.—Epiphany. What is meant by this church term?

MY LETTER BOX.

Ivy Agnes Sizer (age 13), Wirrabara, South Australia, sends me a nice letter. I am delighted to have a niece in far-away South Australia. All five Scripture answers correct. Send some more letters, please.

Eric Lloyd, of no address, sends a very neatly written and correct list of answers to two Sunday problems. Where do you live, Eric? Not in a flying-machine or in mid-ocean, I hope? I wonder if the postman could deliver at this address:—"Eric Lloyd, Flying-machine, Lat. 153E., Long. 34S."

Myrtle Harris, Goldsmith-street, Goulburn, says:—"We have been taking 'Grit' ever since it came out, and we all enjoy reading it." I hope you will try and help "Grit" in Goulburn. I used to stay at a lovely place in your street. I wonder if I ever met you, Myrtle. Your two answers are correct.

N.B.—As "Uncle B." is going off holiday-making for a week or two, he is extending the Acrostic and Limerick competition till the end of the school holidays. Still they come! Try for a prize. See "Grit" December 5th, 1907.

GOLDEN MAXIMS.

On the tombstone of John Donough, of New Orleans, the following maxims are engraved as the merchant's guide to young men on their way through life:—

- I. Remember always that labour is one of the conditions of our existence.
- II. Time is gold; throw not one minute away, but place each one to account.
- III. Do unto all men as you would be done by.
- IV. Never put off till to-morrow what can be done to-day.
- V. Never bid another do what you can do yourself.
- VI. Never covet what is not your own.
- VII. Never think any matter so trifling as not to deserve notice.
- VIII. Never give out what does not come in.
- IX. Do not spend, but produce.
- X. Let the greatest order regulate the actions of your life.
- XI. Study in your course of life to do the greatest amount of good.
- XII. Deprive yourself of nothing that is necessary to your comfort, but live in honourable simplicity and frugality.
- XIII. Labour then to the last moment of your existence.

A Lady or Gentleman

- Will be kind.
- Will not use slang.
- Will try to make others happy.
- Will not be shy or self-conscious.
- Will never indulge in ill-natured gossip.
- Will never forget the respect due to age.
- Will not forget engagements, promises, or obligations of any kind.
- In conversation will not be argumentative or contradictory.
- Will never make fun of the peculiarities or idiosyncrasies of others.
- Will not think that "good intentions" compensate for rude or gruff manners.
- Will not have two sets of manners; one for "company" and one for home use.

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GOOD CUP OF TEA AT ANY HOUR.

ALREADY NECESSARY TO ENLARGE
THE PREMISES AGAIN

THE FALSE CLAIMS OF THE GOTHENBURG LIQUOR MONOPOLY SYSTEM.

As Hon. Sec. of the National Temperance Federation, and as Chief of the Good Templar Organisation, I am interested in the Gothenburg or Scandinavian Licensing System, which I have repeatedly investigated on the spot, and regarding which I was called by Lord Peel as a witness before the Royal Commission on Licensing.

My investigations show that in actual working the system has proved false to its pretensions, and that even in Gothenburg, where it has embodied several reforms, and is free from corruption, it nevertheless leaves that city one of the most drunken on the face of the earth. The court records have for years shown that the so-called disinterestedly managed public-houses, which (excluding three or four dining halls where little drinking is permitted) are not over twenty in number, produce more drunken cases than the many hundreds of beer-houses that are not under Company control.

HOW MR. CHAMBERLAIN WAS DECEIVED.

Certain writers to the papers refer to the fact that over thirty years ago Mr. Joseph Chamberlain visited Gothenburg, and was converted to its system, and induced the Birmingham Town Council to endorse it by forty votes to one, but its false pretences have since become better known, and though Mr. Chamberlain is still popular in the Midland metropolis, no such vote could be secured now, nor in any other leading city.

Mr. Chamberlain gave as his main reason for supporting it the fact that within a decade of its starting in 1865 the drunken convictions dropped about 50 per cent., and so they did. But he was deceived by having hidden from him a fact which everyone must admit must have been a huge factor in bringing about such reduction. That fact I laid before the Royal Commission, and no man here or in Sweden has dared to deny its existence or importance. It is as follows:

In 1841 the Swedish Parliament enacted that thereafter every police officer should be rewarded with two-thirds of the fine inflicted for each case in which he secured a conviction for drunkenness. Thus, practically bribed, the police became excessively zealous in making arrests. The General Director of Police (Dr. Weissegren) wrote me that it resulted in such unreasonable activity on their part that they arrested every one thought to be intoxicated, and such indignant citizens resisted till "the streets resembled battlefields."

These excesses compelled the Swedish National Authorities in 1864 to decree that from 1865 onwards the police should not receive any share of such fines. This was done to diminish the arrests, and, after a decent interval, the arrests rapidly declined till, within a decade, they had dropped 50 per cent.

Now the Gothenburg System was organised in the latter part of the year 1865—the year when these police rewards ceased—and the Gothenburg Liquor Company has ever since represented the diminution as a result of their liquor system, and has concealed from British investigators the tremendous fact before named.

HOW THE LORDS WERE DECEIVED.

Perhaps I should correct this statement as to concealment, for in a table supplied from Gothenburg to our House of Lords Committee on Intemperance, as evidence of

the success of the Gothenburg System in reducing drunkenness, the document was actually falsified by having written upon it a statement that these police records were abolished in 1860, thus throwing the House of Lords Committee off the scent, and making them credit the reduction after 1865 wholly to the Gothenburg System, which they accordingly commended.

Some years later I discovered this fraud in our Parliamentary Blue Books, and I reprinted the table with the fraudulent statement thereon, and exposed it before the Royal Commission, which has reprinted my copy of the falsified table in the appendix to its own Report.

There now remains the pitiful fact that after forty years' trial of the system in Gothenburg, with its indoor and outdoor licensed houses, its wine and spirit merchants licensed by the Company, and the beer-houses opened to sell the malt liquors which the Gothenburg Company have popularised as Temperance drinks, the percentage of convictions (without the stimulus of bribes to the police) are now as great as they were before the Gothenburg System was invented, and when the police were rewarded for every conviction. Thus drunkenness is obviously more rife than before the system was invented, and this in spite of numerous reforms as to hours of sale and the conduct of the houses. It is clear that when the traffic has thrown over it the mantle of municipal sanction and philanthropic administration, the attainment of any general standard of sobriety becomes remote indeed.

Gothenburg in 1905 had an average of 52 drunken convictions for every 1000 of its population, in 1906 it had 53 per 1000; while Liverpool has but 11 per 1000, and London 9 per 1000. Yet the Gothenburg police are no more ready than our own to arrest inebriates now that rewards are abolished. Out of 60 persons I counted emerging from one of their disinterestedly managed public-houses in fifteen minutes at middle day, seven were staggering drunk, but the policeman standing near me interfered with none, as they were able to get along. When a notable citizen and myself spoke of it to an esteemed publisher in the city, he said he had been remonstrating with his good friend, the Chief Constable, on the laxity of the police in not arresting such cases. Yet the cases which they feel obliged to arrest amount to nearly five times as many per 1000 as Liverpool, and more than five times as many per 1000 as London!—Yours, etc.

JOSEPH MALINS.

FACTORY ORGIES.

SECRET DRINKING CLUBS THE RUIN OF BIRMINGHAM GIRLS.

Startling revelations of the harm done by secret drinking clubs among factory girls

were made at a recent meeting of Birmingham employers.

A committee which had been inquiring into the matter reported that such clubs exist to a large extent, generally without the knowledge of employers, but sometimes with the consent of the foremen or forewomen, and even with their encouragement. These clubs are formed for the purpose:—

(a) Of surreptitiously getting drink into the factories, to be consumed in tea and in other ways.

(b) Of celebrating birthdays, marriages, and other social events connected with the factories.

(c) Of habitually drinking together in public-houses and other places after leaving work, and on public holidays, especially Christmas.

These clubs are seriously affecting the moral character of many of the female workers, says the report:—

By weakening their sense of self-respect. By degrading their general habits of life. By unfitting them for the responsibilities of motherhood.

The committee suggest that if adequate rules were placed in prominent positions in the factories, and were rigidly enforced, the evil, which is more widespread than many imagine, would be arrested, and the interests of both employers and workpeople would be therefore protected.

Canon Denton Thompson, rector of Birmingham, who presided at the meeting, said that girls and women were invited, encouraged, and even coerced into joining drinking clubs for which the weekly subscription was from 1d to 3d. Sometimes collections were made for the purpose, generally by someone in authority at the factory. In some parts of the city the public-houses were crowded by girls and women directly the works were closed. Drink was taken into some factories surreptitiously; in others permission was actually given for the girls to have it.

Sometimes the drink was put surreptitiously in the tea served in the factories, and in one case under his notice it was even introduced into some toffee made in the factory and handed round to the girls. All the girls employed were expected to join these clubs, and were persecuted if they refused.

In some factories—he was glad to say that they were few—permission was even granted by the foremen or forewomen for what could only be termed carousals in the factory itself. "I know it is a very serious statement to make," he continued, "but I say that we have very good reason to believe that persons in authority have been commissioned by certain licensed houses to organise these drinking bouts with a view to encouraging these drinking clubs among girls."

The seventy or eighty thousand factory girls in Birmingham had arduous and irksome lives, and this physical and moral degradation could not be in the interests of the employer. By putting down such clubs they would be looking to the material interests of the city.

How the World Moves

The Empress of Japan is a great advocate of the spread of education in her husband's dominions.

Only one, on an average, out of every thousand married couples live to celebrate their golden wedding.

The Queen of Norway takes a great interest in bookbinding. The collecting of beautifully-bound books is one of her hobbies.

Turkish women do not come into control of their private fortunes until after marriage. They can then dispose of one-third of it without the husband's consent.

The longest perfectly straight track is on the Rhodesia Railway from Buluwayo in the direction of the Victoria Falls. It extends to seventy-one miles without a single curve.

Miss Rose Fritz, of New York, has beaten the world's speed record in typewriting. The young lady copied from a manuscript 5619 words in one hour, or an average of just over 93½ words per minute.

Burnt sugar is recommended as a deodorizer. Sprinkle the sugar on a few live coals on a shovel and leave in the room for five minutes. Afterwards air the room.

What a canary eats has been the subject of research by a scientist who weighed a canary and found it rather over ½oz. He also weighed all the food, and found that the bird consumed thirty-two times its weight every month, or actually more than its own weight every day.

Germany has the largest labour organisation in the world. This trade union—the Deutscher Metallarbeiterverband, which represents all branches of the metal-working industry—has a membership of no fewer than 335,075, of which 15,000 are women. During 1906 a total of £17,500 was spent by this organisation to maintain strikers.

A young woman has just arrived in Vienna who claims to be the tallest woman in the world. She is only twenty-seven years old, but stands 7ft. 5in., and weighs 26st. 10lb. She is spare rather than stout, is hard of feature and voice, and altogether somewhat of the masculine type. Her father and mother are not above ordinary stature.

The German Empress, during a visit not long since to a pottery, noticing a fine model of a dog's head, was informed that it was the work of a little son of one of the foremen. Soon afterwards Her Majesty sent for the boy, and, promising that he should be properly trained, has sent him to an art school at her own expense.

Admiral Sir Edward Seymour, who is a cousin of that other fine sailor, Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, is a bachelor and a strong supporter of the old contention that sailors should never marry. "If they do," he once said, "they must necessarily neglect either their profession or their wives."

THE DRINK FIEND.

NEW SCHEME FOR EDINBURGH SLUMS.

A number of enthusiastic philanthropists and workers among the poor in Edinburgh have just completed arrangements for carrying out a new project to combat the drink fiend in the opening days of the year in Edinburgh. During the first week in January (says an English paper) there is no part of the city where social wreckage is more in evidence than in the Grassmarket and Cowgate district, and there is here abundant opportunity for earnest and sympathetic work on the part of the reformer. One or two local gentlemen, who interest themselves largely in combating crying social evils throughout the city, have been

struck by the fact that every New Year's week, while the public-houses are doing a roaring trade there is a hall in the Grassmarket belonging to the city where comfort, warmth, and good cheer might be cheaply provided, but which remains with locked doors and darkened windows. These gentlemen, foremost among whom are Dr. Williamson, the chief Sanitary Inspector, Parish Councillor Foster and Parish Councillor Cowan, have successfully approached the Lord Provost and obtained the use of the Corn Exchange for the first week in 1908. Their intention is to attract into a bright and cheerful hall many people in the district who have nowhere else to turn to save the public-house. They are inviting subscriptions with a view to supplying some good cheer for the visitors in the way of tea, coffee, and plain food, and they are in hopes that ladies and gentlemen and societies even will furnish them gratuitously with the means for supplying these poor people with musical entertainment.

It is intended that the doors should be open after two o'clock in the afternoon till ten o'clock at night, and that throughout the afternoon and evening vocal and instrumental selections and dancing will be given on the platform. Unfortunately the hall has been secured for another function on New Year's Day itself, but for the rest of the week the Committee will have it in their hands.

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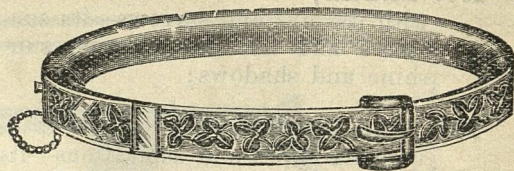
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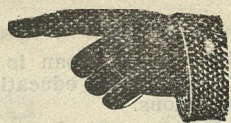
with its joys and sorrows—its successes and its failures—its sunshine and shadows;

1908 HAS COME,

with its hopes and aspirations—its resolutions and its possibilities.

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Ladies' Lisle Elbow Gloves, beaver or white, 1/- pr.

Ladies' White Kid Gloves, 3-button, black stitching, 1/6.
Ladies' Fawn Suede Gloves, 3-button, 1/9.
Child's Lisle Gloves, all colours, 3½d pr.
Ladies' Lace Elbow Mitts, black or white, 1/-.
Ladies' Fancy Parasols, 2/6.
Children's Fancy Parasols, 9d and 1/-.
Ladies' Floral Sunshades, 3/11.

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