

A PLEA FOR HOPEFULNESS

Writer Well Describes Pessimism as a Sin and the Pessimist a Man to Avoid.

Hopefulness is a true sign of greatness. It means a conviction that we are greater than our troubles, greater than the world itself, greater than death, and can hold our own whenever it comes.

No man has a right to kill his friends by a sad, morose countenance. A long face is a mark of religion. It is out of date just now and forever.

CURIOUS EFFECTS OF SCENTS

Penetrating Odors Have Been Known to Induce Unconsciousness and Even Death.

There is no evidence to support the theory that the smell of narcissus may cause influenza. But many strange cases are on record regarding the effects of the smell of flowers.

"A foreign officer," said a medical man, "one night went to sleep with a number of bunches of oleander—an evergreen shrub with red and white flowers—in his bedroom.

"Less serious is the case of a doctor who, after sitting for some time in a room where there were several bowls of jasmies, became exceedingly giddy.

"A number of oranges in a room has been known to make a man unconscious. I know also of the case of a man who, going to sleep in a store-room full of apricots, was discovered next day in an unconscious condition, and lay for some time in peril of his life."

The New Testament From Memory.

Today the Bible is the best memorized book in the world, and no doubt it could be entirely reconstructed from the minds of its students. One young woman alone could dictate the New Testament. She is Miss Lesta May Williams of North Carolina, now 20 years old.

On the day of the award Miss Williams had committed and recited to the committee 12,238 verses of Scripture, covering the entire New Testament excepting the two genealogies of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew and the third chapter of Luke, and including liberal selections from Genesis, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and other parts of the Old Testament.

A Guilty Conscience.

"That view is rather unscientific," said, at a dinner party in New York, Dr. Simon Flexner, the head of the Rockefeller Institute.

"That view reminds me," continued Doctor Flexner, "of Hopkins, who was wont to observe Lent very vigorously.

"But on a certain fast day, after three hours of golf, Hopkins couldn't resist a luncheon of chops. And as he munched his chops, a violent storm came up suddenly; a blue light filled the room, and then a terrific clap of thunder shook the building.

"Hopkinson, pale and shaky, laid down his knife and fork.

"What a fuss," he muttered, "over a mutton chop."

At Maxim's.

Addison Misner, the well-known first nighter, praised, at supper at the Cafe de l'Opera in New York, the wit of the Parisians.

"I met my first Parisienne," said Mr. Misner, "in a restaurant in the Rue Royale, near the Place de la Concorde. She was very beautiful.

"How beautiful you are, mademoiselle," I said; "but you are very pale tonight."

"She turned to me with a smile. "Then, monsieur," she said, "tell me something at once to make me blush."

Hope and Envy. Sanazars being present one day when several persons, and among others, some medical men, were discussing which was the most general disease, he offered to decide the dispute, and, on being asked to do so, he replied that the fever of hope killed more persons than any other. On a similar occasion, when some physicians were consulting as to what remedy was the best for weakness of sight, he observed that envy was more likely than anything else to quicken the power of vision.

BURMAH HOME OF THE RUBY

Practically All the Valuable Stones Are the Product of That Country's Mines.

All the world's great rubies come from the mines of the Mogok valley, India. There are four principal mines in the valley, in each of which modern tools and machinery are used, which facilitate the proper examination of a large amount of byon or ruby-bearing clay each day.

The sturgeon was placed in a small pond on the Adams ranch, says the Portland Journal. There were then two ponds on the place, and the fish was changed from one to the other from time to time. Some years ago the ponds filled with grass and weeds, and the water became so shallow that the back of the sturgeon was blistered by the sun.

FISH 30 YEARS A CAPTIVE

When Released It Knew Something Besides How to Swim in a Circle.

A big sturgeon that has been a prisoner 30 years has just been released from his long captivity and set free in the Columbia river. The fish was taken from the Columbia river, near Cascade locks, in the spring of 1830.

The fish was then moved to the pool of a fountain on the farm, where it swam about in a circle. It kept growing bigger, until it was about six feet long and the fountain was too small a place for it to be kept.

WHEN HE MISSED HIS MOTHER

Bishop of Lincoln Regretted Inability to Make Frank Criticism of Poor Sermon.

Cannon Scott Holland, in an appreciation of the late bishop of Lincoln, mentions that Doctor King was a bachelor, and his mother lived with him till her death. He said once, after hearing a rasping sermon that irritated him: "It is at such a time that I miss my mother."

"Because directly we were through the door I should have turned to her and said: 'That was a beastly sermon, and then it would have been out, and I should have been sorry to have said it and should have begun to apologize for the sermon and to love the preacher. Now the poison is in me all the week and I can't get rid of it.'

Doctor King had a delicate and subtle wit. Once, said the canon, we had all been rather swept off our feet by the vivacity of certain Bampton lectures which were laid out on rather well worn conventional lines.

The material was old, no doubt, but still it was surprising how well they went. How was it? What would King say of them? "Well, it is wonderful," he said, "how good an old pair of trousers will come out if you have laid them away for some time in a drawer."

MAN BELONGS TO HIS AGE

Essentially Subject of Environment. Life in Other Periods Would Be Impossible to Him.

Could a man, were he given the opportunity, really live in any age widely remote from his own? Modern philosophy tells us that life is then at its highest and best when the organism is perfectly adapted to its environment. If this be so, then it is clear that any large, sudden and abrupt change in the environment must impair the vitality of the organism, and might even destroy it altogether.

Yet there are many worthy people who delight to call themselves old fashioned and are always longing, so they pretend, to live in some other and better age than their own. They make to themselves a paradise of a past they have never known and fondly imagine that were they its Adam and Eve no serpent would ever beguile them into wanting to know the good and the evil of the present. It is a vain aspiration, and those who entertain it only succeed, so far as they succeed at all, in getting hopelessly out of touch with their own age.

TRIUMPH OF HUMAN BRAIN

Showman's Taming of Savage Lion Remarkable for the Ingenuity Displayed.

As evidencing the ingenuity exercised by animal trainers and attendants in subduing intractable beasts, there may be cited the method employed in a western zoo by a man who was formerly a showman.

The zoological institution had purchased a magnificent lion named Leander. He was obtained at a low price from a circus because of his vicious disposition, he having a record of two men killed while with a circus.

At first the ex-showman would put his foot on his hands into Leander's cage, but from the way the lion would leap at him he knew that to put himself entirely in its power would be suicide. Nothing he could do to establish a friendly relationship between himself and the lion had any favorable result.

Some originality, therefore, being called for, the attendant exercised his inventive genius by taking some old clothes, stuffing them with rags and throwing them into the cage. The lion in a jiffy tore the old clothes to pieces, thinking that the dummy was a human being.

Next day and the next day and the next the ex-showman continued to throw into the lion's cage stuffed figures and the lion continued to destroy them. But the time came when the animal ceased to put any "heart" into his work and in the end it gave up altogether these attacks upon the dummies; it would simply play with them, or else ignore them entirely.

Now was the ex-showman's time. He opened the cage one morning, walked in boldly and slapped the lion familiarly on the back. It gave him a friendly glance and purred, taking him for another dummy not worth bothering about. Thus Leander lived seven years with the ex-showman and became as gentle as a kitten.

HUMAN LIVES THROWN AWAY

Herein is Stern Indictment of Conditions Which Are Not Creditable to the Nation.

Defective sanitation, impure food, formaldehyde milk, typhoid water, sweat-shops, due to unrestricted commercial ambition, gives us an average death rate of over 16 to the thousand, and in certain industrial centers 23 to the thousand, while in the Australian states, where the heedlessness of commercialism is restrained and the public health preserved, the average death rate is 10 to the thousand, and in New Zealand nine and a fraction to the thousand. If a department of public health could reduce our mortality one to the thousand it would mean a saving of about 90,000 human beings per annum, worth, approximately, four hundred millions. If we shall value human life by a commercial standard, and if we should develop a patriotic intelligence equal to that of New Zealand we would save over 500,000 human beings annually, worth, on a commercial basis, twenty-five hundred millions per annum to the values of the American Republic, estimating Americans as worth \$5,000 apiece.

BEGINNING OF USE OF IRON

Hard to Trace Exactly, But Its Origin Is Thought to Have Been in Central Europe.

It is commonly believed that the use of iron commenced in either Africa or Asia. The latest investigations prove that it was not worked in Egypt until the ninth century before the Christ; in Asia, or in Libya until 450 B. C., that the Semites adopted its use still later, and that it has been known in Uganda only within the last five or six centuries.

In China iron is first mentioned in 400 B. C. Bronze weapons were employed in China until 100 A. D., and in Japan until 700 A. D. According to Mr. Ridgeway, who has investigated this subject, the metallurgy of iron must have originated in central Europe, especially in Noricum, which approximately represented modern Austria and Bavaria. Only at Hallstatt and in Bosnia and Transylvania, from which countries the Achaeans and Dorians are supposed to have migrated to Greece, are found evidences of a gradual introduction of iron, at first as an ornament applied to the bronze which it ultimately displaced. Everywhere also iron was introduced suddenly—a fact which implies a foreign origin. He says that meteoric iron was known in Egypt in remote antiquity, but no doubt it was worked as flints are worked, by cutting or chipping, and was not smelted. In other words, it was metallurgy, not the knowledge of iron that originated in central Europe.

POPULAR WITH THE FAIR SEX

Strange Fascination Exercised by List Over the Literary Works of His Day.

Though not of a specially passionate temperament, List exercised an irresistible fascination over the enthusiastic literary ladies of his day. They were all at his feet, and as he seems always to have had an eye to the main chance, he chose from time to time some lady of high rank as well as mental ability to unite her life with his. The Comtesse d'Agout ("Daniel Stern") and Princess Caroline Sayn-Wittgenstein were successively the arbiters of his destiny, and Doctor Knapp recounts a good many other episodes more transient if less important. There was a singer of great eminence (we are not told who she was) who made her way into his presence in male attire, hopeless of attracting him by other means, another threatened to murder him, and altogether his experience read like a rather crude melodrama.

It is curious that when he was only sixteen his dying father warned him that women would upset and dominate his life. As Doctor Knapp says, "He was neither made to do without a woman nor to remain faithful to one alone."

CHILD'S FIENDISH TEMPER

Death from exhaustion due to burns caused by being pushed into the fire by her younger brother, was the verdict at a Crewe (Eng.) inquest on the body of a five-year-old Violet Capper.

The mother left a number of little children playing in the yard with instructions not to go into the house. Scarcely had she turned her back when Frank, aged two, got into the house, and Violet, who followed to bring him out, was pushed into the fire by him. The mother said Frank had a very nasty temper, and since the occurrence had attempted to push one of the other children into the fire. The coroner said it seemed almost incredible. The child was too young to be criminally charged.

THE GROWTH OF LANGUAGES

There is an interesting and from the national point of view a satisfactory statement in the statistics lately published in an Italian paper concerning the growth of modern languages. According to the figures given the English language, which a century ago was spoken by 20,000,000 individuals, is now the means by which no less than 100,000,000 give expression to their views of things. French, on the other hand, has spread less than any of the chief European languages, for whereas it was used by 24,000,000 men at the beginning of the nineteenth century, it is now spoken by 46,000,000. Seventy million individuals speak German today, against 36,000,000 100 years ago; 69,000,000 Russian, against 30,000,000; 32,000,000 Italian, against 18,000,000, and 44,000,000 Spanish against 20,000,000.

QUARRELS OF FRIENDS

I think I have observed universally that the quarrels of friends in the latter part of life are never truly reconciled. A wound in the bark of a young tree may be so grown over as to leave no scar. The case is very different as regards old persons and old timber. The reason of this may be accounted from the decline of the social passions, and the prevalence of spleen, suspicion, and rancor, towards the latter part of life.

WHAT KEEPS THE WORLD ALIVE.

There's the world at large; town, village, country, sea. What is it all about? A man's search for his God, his struggle to fill his stomach, and his desire for his mate. It is only love that keeps the whole pathetic mass together. Fine, slender cords, binding men and women. The light in a woman's eyes, the smiles of children—the actions men do from affection—these things keep the world alive. Nothing matters but that. The worst man loves somebody. The best man loves everybody.—New York Press.

INDIAN SUPERSTITION.

Dying to order is one of the most sacred customs of the American Indian. Thirty years ago Standing Elk came to Maj. James McLaughlin, the author of "My Friend, the Indian," and said: "Father, my wife will die today, and she wants a coffin for you."

The major asked him what the ailment was, and he replied: "Just nothing, but she heard the ghosts calling and must go." Somebody had told her, it turned out, that she was sick, so she had "painted for death" and all her relatives had gathered about her to beseech her—and incidentally to divide her property as soon as she was dead. There was no use in the major arguing about it, so he had the coffin made. In many cases these "painted for death" are actually buried in the house on their own shoulders, and several years later the major saw it still standing on end in her house. Shelves had been fitted into it and it was doing duty as a cupboard.

PALESTINE A LAND OF CONTRASTS.

I have often heard it said that Palestine is not a land of much variety, even that it is very monotonous. If one compares it with other countries, the statement may be allowed to be true, but in spring it affords delicious contrasts of cold and almost grievous sterility with soft and languorous opulence, the contrasts between the heights and the plains. Sad and stony are the hills, or sometimes dull in their rounded nudity. Noble Hermon, with its glorious crest of snow, excites the spirit. But as one rides through Palestine, the general effect of the hills is one that makes for a monotony not free from melancholy. Monotonous, too, are the plains. But therein lies for me their supreme attraction. As one slowly descends into them, picking his way among the brittle rocks, he has the sensation of being taken as by some green and tranquil sea, full of lulling murmurs, and of movements that suggest passivity to the mind. The wild flowers still in the breeze, the prairies of corn turn to a delicate pallor as the silken wind bends each ear.—Robert Hichens' "From Nazareth to Jerusalem," in Century.

ADVERTISEMENTS TELEGRAPHED.

Acting on the idea that a business man, or, in fact, anyone, will open and read a telegram where a circular would be thrown into a waste basket, many persons who have heretofore used the mails for reaching prospective customers are now using the new letter-telegram system of the New York Tribune. One firm recently turned in about four thousand dispatches to be sent in one night for that purpose. Where a form is used with a number of addresses in the same city, the form is wired through once, and the addresses are sent with it, to be copied off and delivered by the receiving office. Advertisers say that this method insures a reading of what they have to say. Incidentally, it means work for many more telegraph operators, as well as more income for the company.

TRULY WONDERFUL.

"Science is a wonderful thing." "Indeed it is!" Prof. Buggs tells me that 50,000,000 germs can do a barn dance in a space no larger than a postage stamp.—Birmingham Age-Herald.