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WHEN DARKNESS COMES. When life's dark moments come and at Misfortune's feet we lie, How eager we become to place our faith in one on high;

When all the clouds have blown away and Fortune deigns to smile, The piety we have possessed lasts such a little while;

How penitent we learn to be, how suddenly we wilt When, after we have sinned, the world begins to learn our guilt;

Incidentally, there is some talk of St. Louis this week as a mayors' nest.

There is a growing suspicion that St. Louis' annual parade has some connection with veiled profits also.

The newest form of coliffure is styled "the mop." Why such rank discrimination against the scrub brush?

Chicago is thinking of electrocuting a number of railroad presidents as a preliminary to electrifying the railroads terminating there.

George Fitch declares that anyone who would grumble over the weather of the past week would yell because the pearly gates aren't set in platinum.

The world is full of men who can "drink or let it alone," but it is a noteworthy fact that the great majority of them almost invariably choose not to let it alone.

There is a good lot of philosophy in the remark by the Des Moines Tribune that if people would chew their feed as much as they chew the rag there would be less dyspepsia in this world.

They are having "bi-partisanship" politics over in Illinois. For the benefit of the uninformed it may be stated that it is an arrangement to elect Democrats to office in a Republican state.

A Missouri farmer has contracted the habit of firing at every balloon he sees. One of these days some sky pilot will let something drop on him that will make a dent in his empty cranium.

At the present rate of progress it will not be long until it will be a wise hunter who can distinguish between a flock of ducks and a flock of airships. One will be as common as the other.

So many women are being operated upon at Washington of late that the Press expects to hear the criticism of a woman who isn't tidy that she is always going around with some of the stitches untied.

President Taft seems to an eastern paper to have settled the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy by hanging a wreath of roses and a reward of merit card on both horns of what the gossipy public deemed to be a serious dilemma.

According to the near-philosopher of the Sloux City Tribune, wives would be suspicious of husbands who always tell all the truth under all circumstances. The best that can be said of this theory is that it is purely speculative.

Undertakers are so in the habit of putting under ground everything they can get their hands on that over at Indianapolis they even went so far as to bury their differences. Following this procedure they added a new horror to death by forming a trust.

One of Chicago's ministers the other evening preached a sermon entitled "From Hell to Halstead Street." The differentiation involved in the title to the discourse entitles the Chicago minister to great credit for originality and ingenuity.

In commenting upon a statement recently made by The Gate City that the town of Etah consists of about fifty people, 108 dogs and four tents, the Sloux City Tribune explains to its readers that "when the fifty people get hungry they eat the 108 dogs and are content in the four tents." Happily capital punishment has been restored in this state.

The famous astronomer, Archibald, of Berlin is quoted as saying that a telescope could be made at a cost of \$200,000 by the use of which we could see what is going on on Mars. Any reader of this paper who has \$200,000 lying about loose and has a curiosity to know what the Martians are doing should not overlook this opportunity.

The Chicago Tribune is doubtless right in its statement that little did Mark Twain think, when as a boy he walked barefoot in the hot sands of Hannibal, Mo., that he would live to be a rich and famous author and the father-in-law of a man named Gabrielowitz. It is perhaps just as well that people do not know in advance what fate has in store for them.

President Taft incidentally pointed out that there is a difference between the Universalist and the Unitarian church.—Sloux City Journal.

The remark recalls Starr King's differentiation of the two denominations. He said that the Universalists believe God is too good to damn anybody, while the Unitarians believe that everybody is too good to be damned.

Letters have been received in Des Moines from Gen. James S. Clarkson, surveyor of the post of New York, saying that he does not expect to return to Des Moines to live nor does he expect to establish a daily newspaper there. Nevertheless there is said to be a movement on foot looking to the establishment of a Republican morning paper in Des Moines with a paid-up capital of \$500,000.

The Philadelphia Press well says that President Taft's modest refusal to compare his own gift of eloquence to that of Mr. Roosevelt does not detract from its real value. No invidious distinction is made in saying that the new President is evidencing something that at critical junctures is far more important than ready oratory. He is tactful always; and that is a resource a nation must count upon.

Here is plain talk and the right kind of talk from Uncle George Perkins. In a paragraph in the Sloux City Journal he declares:

"President Taft is for the Roosevelt policies, but he isn't going to let a few excited editors tell him what the Roosevelt policies are. Taft was the right-hand man of Roosevelt throughout his second term. It seems that Taft may be pardoned for assuming his own definition of the Roosevelt policies to be as good as anybody's."

John C. Busby of Independence, Iowa's premier weather prophet, predicts that we will have a cold wave all over this state and the northwest today and that it will amount to a severe freeze. From today until the 15th he promises a warm wave will set in and that we will have fine, genial October weather. Mr. Busby believes that Hallet's comet rushing through space caused the recent earth's disturbance.

The annual report of the adjutant general of the Oklahoma militia for the past year contains complimentary reference to Major William Black, U. S. A., retired, representing the war department, both in camp at Guthrie and at Fort Riley. His report to the chief of the division of militia affairs at Washington is incorporated in full, and pleasure is expressed at having him as instructor. Keokuk men never fail to make good wherever they go or in whatsoever they engage.

On account of differences as to the tariff the Chicago Tribune is not partial to President Taft, but it is fair enough to print the conclusions of the correspondents of the New York Sun and the New York World, who have been traveling with President Taft, as to whether the President has won or lost friends in the course of his trip which is now half completed. The views of these close observers indicate that the President's personality has created a favorable impression at every stop. The President's sincerity and fairness have been evident in every speech and have dissipated the doubts that were created by false reports sent out from Washington during the tariff discussion.

The changes that have occurred during the past century are reflected in part by the differences in the newspapers then and now. The St. Louis Republican recently duplicated the issue of the Missouri Gazette of October 4, 1809, showing that paper to have been a four-column, four-page sheet—about the size of one page of a modern newspaper. The front page was given over almost entirely to advertisements. The first of these offered land for sale "for cash, negroes or produce." In the local columns was an account of a conference with a delegation of Indian chiefs who had come down to St. Louis to learn the fate of an Indian who had been in jail for some eighteen months for the murder of a white man at Portage des Sioux. The general news teemed with references to incidents leading up to the war of 1812. Newspapers in those days were very different from modern metropolitan journals.

The Des Moines Capital says that talk that Attorney General Byers, or any other Republican, will contest the nomination with Congressman Walter I. Smith of the Ninth district should not be taken too seriously, especially the part having reference to the attorney general. The Capital adds: "It can be reliably stated that he is well satisfied with his present berth and will be until after another term expires. And much can happen by that time. Just now there is much talk about opposition to Judge Smith but no one is willing to name a candidate against him, and when the time comes his friends say that the Republicans of the Ninth will agree with President Taft and line up behind the judge."

The Des Moines Capital says that if Joe Cannon entered into that deal with Tammany that Herbert Parsons accuses him of that he ought to be severely condemned, but it hardly thinks that Parsons is the right man to do the chastising in view of his trade last year with one William Randolph Hearst wherein the Republicans of New York city were to support the Hearst following and in return receive aid in congressional and legislative districts. The Capital also reminds its readers that only a few years ago right here in Iowa certain Republicans agreed to a removal of the circle from the Australian ballot on condition that the Democrats in turn would deliver certain political goods—and the trade went through on scheduled time.

THE LAW AND DIVORCE. Ministerial associations have been quite free in their criticisms of the courts of late for granting so many divorces. It is seldom that a pronouncement is made from that source in condemnation of the "divorce evil" that there is not coupled with it an expression of regret that the courts enter so many decrees. Judge McHenry of Des Moines, who has presided at many divorce hearings and granted many divorces, says in reply to the ministerial and other critics that the fault does not lie so much with the courts as has been claimed. There is, he contends, no divorce evil under the law. He concedes that the increase of divorces is an evil, but holds that the granting of the divorce is not the evil. "The law is right and the courts are right," he says. "Divorce is but the evidence of the evil and not the evil itself. Divorce is the evidence of bad morals." Further:

"Wherever there is congested population in a small area there are bad morals. Not until the Christian church has converted the men, made men quit drinking, made them more moral and made them quit deserting their wives will the divorce problem be solved. In the thirty years of my practice I have granted but six divorces to Catholics and but one divorce to members of the Jewish race."

Judge McHenry's views on this subject are sensible and practical and in line with the facts in the case. Instead of dealing with divorce itself, which is only a symptom, attention should be directed to the causes of divorce and efforts made to eradicate them. Divorce is a result, not a cause. To avoid it humanity must be converted to better living, as Judge McHenry suggests. Until this is done all efforts to put a stop to divorce are doomed to failure.

NEW CONCEPTION OF DEATH. Few indeed are the men and women of full age who have not yet contracted the malady that will kill them, according to that distinguished scientist and physician, Dr. Felix Regnault, as reported by Current Literature. Normally, as contemporary investigators are beginning to find out, it takes twenty years for a fatal mady to kill a patient. It may take thirty years. The popular impression is that a man may die suddenly or that he may only require a year to die in or six months. To be sure, a man may be killed or a child may die in a few months at the age of one year. But ordinarily speaking, all deaths are very slow indeed and about 95 per cent of civilized adults are now stricken with a fatal disease. They do not know it. They must not suffer from it. In due time they will have their cases diagnosed as cancer, or as tuberculosis or diabetes or what not. But so inveterate are current misconceptions of the nature of death that the origin of the fatal malady—in time—will be miscalculated by from ten to thirty years. In the case of human beings, death—barring accident—is nearly always caused by some specific malady. This malady is as likely as not to be cured—what is called "cured." The "cure," however, no matter how skillful the treatment or how slight the disease, has left a weakness behind it in some particular organ of the body. One of the organs is, if not prematurely worn out, at least so worn that its resisting powers are greatly diminished. All of us in this way when we have reached a certain age possess an organ that is much older than the rest of the physique. One day we shall die because of this organ. Even if we live to be very old indeed, we shall not die of "old age," but of weakness of the lungs, or of the kidneys or of the liver or of the brain.

The agricultural editor of the Waverly Republican says that he "likes to hear pigs clamor for their morning meal with a voice like an insurgent senator talking tariff." He declares that a pig that will not squeal on an October morning has not enough life and vim in him to make him safe property.

HEMINGER FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT.



All the praise given A. L. Heminger as a candidate for the Republican nomination for state superintendent of public instruction by his Van Buren county neighbors is seconded by all the Lee county people who know him. The teachers and schoolmen here speak highly of Mr. Heminger and are anxious for his nomination and election. They base their preference entirely on his eminent fitness for the place and his qualifications for the office. They care nothing about politics, as a rule, and properly feel that the school system, from country teacher to state superintendent, should be kept out of politics.

Mr. Heminger has been highly honored by his profession in Iowa which appreciates his ability. He is now president of the county superintendents' section of the state teachers' association and chairman of its round table with the duty of directing and controlling the very free debates which occur there. A large number of Iowa schoolmen have greeted his candidacy with actual enthusiasm.

He is a self-made man who made a good job of it under great difficulties which would have discouraged most youths, but seem to have actually stimulated Mr. Heminger to greater exertions. Being dependent upon himself for his livelihood, he lost a leg by an accidental gunshot when he was seventeen years old. He went ahead, however, and worked his way through to colleges and the university and all the time made marks which still stand as a record. He graduated from the college of liberal arts and later from the law school of the state university, and also from the state teachers' college at Cedar Falls. He is that rare combination of both schoolman, lawyer and man of large culture which is specially desirable in superintendents of schools.

He has been elected county superintendent of Van Buren county three times, each time getting the most votes on his ticket. Part of his popularity at home is due to the special care he has taken of the country schools which are his special interest. But beyond this are his remarkable qualifications for the place, thoroughly well rounded out by his education in pedagogy, law and generally. These same things, plus the experience he has gained as county superintendent, are the chief arguments being used in favor of his nomination for state superintendent. He has been assured of a large, wide and strong support all over the state—for his reputation is thoroughly state wide among all posted in public school matters.

SAYINGS OF HARRIMAN. As I grow older I am beginning to think more of my fellow man. I have worked hard because I like the doing of things. Grasp an idea and work it out to a successful conclusion. That is about all there is in life for any of us. People seem to take more stock in a man who talks than a man who acts. But this is a day devoted to isms and it will pass. I have always been too busy to think much about myself. The doctors are beginning to tell me that the other fellow ought to have a chance to do something. Every tide has its rise and fall, and one would be living in a fool's paradise not to take the ebb into consideration in figuring out his future requirements.

The first law of all our civilization is the co-operation of all individuals to improve the conditions of life. To achieve what the world calls success a man must attend strictly to business and keep a little in advance of the times. My father was a clergyman and he was a good one. He was an earnest clergyman and he taught his boys to be earnest in everything they did. There are two things that menace the prosperity of this country—idle money and idle labor. The one is as mischievous as the other. It has always seemed wiser to me to sleep on the roof than in the basement. "Pull" can never carry a man far. It is hard work and application that count. Fifty years from now a 5 per cent return on capital will be considered as good as ten per cent now. But that need not worry you or me. We have had monkey dinners and the idle and foolish vapors and routs of society. Now is the time for less champagne and truffles and more roast beef and milk. The people have the ger-rich-quick bacillus. It's a fearful disease. It's the only menace to this country.

The Waterloo Courier declares that the most beautiful day in the world is an October Iowa day in the woods.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

County Superintendent Heminger's candidacy for state superintendent is meeting with large favor all over Iowa. "President Taft's idea seems to be that a progressive Republican ought to be a Democrat," says the Sibley Tribune.

It is observed by the Sloux City Tribune that living in Chicago enables one to describe hell with unusual facility.

Alex Miller declares that some folks look so ugly that it would be hard to do anything to them that would make any difference.

The Washington Democrat has noticed that a good many men who like to brag that they do their own thinking have not much to brag on.

The Fort Dodge Chronicle is convinced that joy-juice does not mix well with gasoline even when one is the driver and the other is in the tank.

It seems to the Omaha Bee that the Boston physician who decries surgery for appendicitis as a criminal operation can hardly have noticed that in many instances it is already a capital offense.

"Governor Carroll," says the Creston Advertiser, "has not been a factional governor, and he deserves a nomination for another term without opposition or the suggestion of opposition."

The Mt. Pleasant Commercial club has been making an effort to develop the stone quarries near that place, but experts tell them that, while there is some excellent stone there, most of it is of such an inferior grade that it has no value.

Word has been received from Washington that the figurehead of the battleship Iowa has been forwarded to the Iowa historical department. It was secured for the department through the efforts of Congressman Frank P. Woods.

The crops on the farms at the state institutions will be bumpy this year, according to Chairman Cowlie, of the board. He declares that the potato crop at Knoxville would run as high as 300 bushels an acre, while the corn crop at most of the state farms would run as high as sixty bushels to the acre. He says that the fine showing made is due to care taken in selecting the seed.

Curator Harlan, of the historical department, is just now making an especial effort to get the portraits of the great men of Iowa for the portrait gallery. Iowa has reached the age when the men who made the early history of the state have arrived at the sunset of life. Many have already gone on. Mr. Harlan is anxious to get the portraits of all to be preserved in the portrait gallery and is anxious to get them by the best painters. There is already a magnificent collection of the state's celebrities in the gallery and the number is being added to regularly.

John Alex Young, cashier of the Washington National bank for thirty-one years, has resigned the cashiership and will retire from active service January 31, 1910. He began work as assistant cashier of the bank January 27, 1874, and was made cashier July 1, 1878, which position he has held ever since, witness- ing the bank develop from a struggling institution into one of the most prosperous banks in the state. The deposits have grown from \$75,000 to \$900,000, with a surplus of \$100,000. The board of directors extended the retiring cashier's salary to July 1, 1910.

The Fishing Fever. Clinton Herald: Did you ever get the fishing fever? The fellow who gets it is one of the most enthusiastic "bugs" ever encountered. He has the baseball "bug," the auto "bug" and all the other "bugs" backed entirely off the stage. There is only one thing that will cause him to desist after he gets the fever right, and that is the coming of the closed season and the wintry snows and ice. He possesses a peculiarity that is not found in other "bugs." Lack of success does not discourage him. It makes him only the more intent on the pursuit of his hobby. It makes no difference with him that he sits all day on the banks of the river and never gets so much as a bite. Before he quits he has found just the place where "scads" of them can be caught, and he can find time to take a "hike" to the new place. But, after all, it is good to be a fishing "bug." There is no sport that is so conducive to good health and to break the monotony of the daily grind as tramping up and down the banks in pursuit of the finny tribe. Don't be ashamed of the fact that you are a fishing "bug." It demonstrates that you are wise.

Well, Rather. Sloux City News: If you had a son and he acted like Peary is acting, you'd just take him out in the woodshed and lambast him good, wouldn't you?

A Possibility. Cedar Rapids Gazette: Within a few years we may have a society known as the Sons and Daughters of the Maybray Victims.

Read The Daily Gate City.

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