

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY C. F. SKIRVIN, Manager

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HOW SHALL I? How shall I find my way Through all the checkered lines Which mark the human course? How shall I train my steps To find the better path To lead me to the safer goal?

How shall I teach mine eyes To see no more than goodly things, Mine ears to hear no noisome words? How shall my hands be trained To do with skillful touch Things working good to all? How shall my wayward tongue Be taught to never yield To tempting, sharp retort? How shall my every thought Approval seek of Him, and My desire, God's will? K. H. LOUIS.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY. Sometimes a word will speak that accumulated volumes have labored in vain to utter. There may be years of crowded passion in a phrase and half a life concentrated in a sentence. —Thos. W. Higginson.

Land in Iowa advanced in value between 1900 and 1910 from \$1,256,752,000 to \$2,789,025,000, an increase of 122.7 per cent, while the value of all farms in the state has risen in the same time from \$1,499,555,000 to \$3,253,719,000, an increase of 117.3 per cent. Facts like these add to the wonder that Iowa should lend itself to the purposes of insurgeny.

During the last fiscal year over 1,800 postoffice clerks were appointed from the civil service eligible list and more than 1,000 carriers. The railway mail service was swelled by the addition of 750 new employees. Great extensions were made in the rural delivery system, 315 new routes, with a total mileage of 12,235 miles being put into operation. The aggregate salaries of the new employees exceed \$2,000,000. In the face of all this the department deficit was cut down \$11,500,000. Hurrah for Postmaster General Hitchcock!

EDISON'S MATERIALISM. Recent remarks by Inventor Edison on immortality and the soul constitute a surprising revelation of his mental limitations. He is quite sure that there is no such thing as the soul. In all his innumerable experiments, in all his exhaustive study of the physical elements, he has found no "trace of it, and, therefore, he is fully convinced that it does not, and cannot exist. He does not even believe in a personal ego. What he finds is that the human body is composed of millions of cells, and he regards these cells as the sole basis or instrument of both thought and action. The brain is a mere piece of mechanism very wonderful in its construction, but as absolutely material as a phonograph record, which it is said closely to resemble, and the conception of a distinct individuality is a mere illusion. A human being is no more a unity than New York City. It is a more or less fortuitous concourse of atoms, and when it is dispersed the individuality which it seemed to form is irrevocably dissipated.

Such are Mr. Edison's ideas and speculations, and, of course, they are such as do not in the nature of things admit of a mathematical conclusive refusal. Their lack of value, on the other hand is made painfully clear by a writer in the Philadelphia Enquirer who says: "They indicate, as has been indicated before, that in the case of persons who apply themselves exclusively to materialistic research, the faculties by which alone the things that are spiritual can be apprehended undergo a kind of atrophy by which their functions are destroyed."

Something analogous occurred in the case of Darwin to whom the theory that man, instead of being a little lower than the angels, is only a little higher than the monkey. Toward the end of his life Darwin admitted that he had quite lost the power of understanding or enjoying the aesthetic productions of the human mind. The most sublime poetry had ceased to appeal to him, and the most beautiful music carried no message to his calloused ears. He regarded Shakespeare and Beethoven with a like indifference. He preferred earthworms. "But music and poetry have not ceased to be because Darwin ceased to appreciate them, and the spiritual things toward which for centuries human hearts and human conduct have been controlled are not less real and not less compelling than ever they were because Mr. Edison has failed to encounter them in his

Kennedy, War Department and Water Power

Keokuk, Lee county, and the entire First district of Iowa are directly and vitally interested in the re-election of Congressman Kennedy because of his official relations to the War Department on one hand and his knowledge of the great Keokuk and Hamilton water power project, now in process of development, on the other. What that project means to this city, county and district and all this part of the Mississippi valley is too well known to warrant repetition in this connection. The future of Keokuk and all the region round about is inseparably linked with the great enterprise whose early completion without unnecessary friction should be aided and encouraged by every legitimate means. One reason in particular why Congressman Kennedy should be continued as a member of the house at Washington is that he is a member of the important rivers and harbors committee which has to deal directly and primarily with all matters of river improvement. By reason of this fact the members of that committee are in close contact with the engineer's office of the War Department, which exercises supervisory powers over the construction of the big dam here. Furthermore, the fact that all legislation affecting river improvements must have the approval of the rivers and harbors committee before it can hope for the sanction of congress gives the members of that committee a standing and influence with the engineers' office not enjoyed by members of any other committee. During the progress of the work of constructing the dam and developing the power in the river here questions of detail will inevitably arise between the Water Power Company and the engineers' office which can be promptly and fairly settled through the good offices of Mr. Kennedy because of his official relations with that branch of the War Department and his thorough knowledge of local conditions here. The necessity of retaining Mr. Kennedy is all the more imperative because he is the only member of congress residing on the Upper Mississippi river who holds membership on the rivers and harbors committee. Nor could any new man elected in his place gain the membership he holds. One must have been in congress several terms to be as much as considered in that connection, and only those who have demonstrated qualifications of a high order for the practical duties of the position are awarded the distinction which appointment to it implies. No confidence is violated in stating that these views are shared by Engineer Hugh L. Cooper who is in

laboratory, or is unable to find any trace of them in his inner consciousness. It is long since the apostle proclaimed that the great truths he taught were not understood by the scientists and scholars of his day, and neither, indeed, could be discerned, and human nature is not essentially different now from what it was then. "Those who cannot see themselves may insist that there is nothing visible, but others know better, and when Mr. Edison tells us that we are a mere concourse of cells and atoms, and that when we die that is the end of us, 'the heart, like a strong man in wrath, stands up and answers, I have felt.'"

Further brief but suggestive answer to Mr. Edison's views was made the other day by Father Vaughan, the celebrated pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in London, who visited this country as a papal delegate to the Eucharistic congress at Montreal, Quebec. When informed what Mr. Edison had said on immortality of the soul he expressed great interest, and answered the statement of Edison that the human body is nothing more or less than an aggregate of cells, by reminding him that the human soul may possibly be a finer and subtler substance than electricity itself, about the nature of which Mr. Edison has confessed he knows nothing at all.

CARRIAGES AS A BRIBE Carriages were originally used on election day to convey only the lame, halt, blind, aged and infirm to the polls, but in recent years the practice has been enlarged to include all who otherwise would neglect or refuse to vote. Able-bodied voters deliberate remain away from the polls until a carriage calls for them and thus they entail needless expense upon candidates and campaign committees. This is clearly an abuse and it should be abolished forthwith. In some western communities the general use of carriages on election day is forbidden by law under severe penalties. If the practice is continued of hauling to and from the polls those who do not need such service similar legislation in Iowa will be in order. The use of carriages has gone entirely too far. It partakes of the nature of a bribe and is wholly indefensible from any point of view.

charge of the water power project. He has expressed himself freely on the subject at various times and it is known that he would be glad to see Mr. Kennedy continued in his present capacity. The re-election of Mr. Kennedy will be therefore a direct and important contribution to the prompt construction of the dam and the development of the water power. It is worth while to recall in this connection that at the last session of congress a bill was passed providing for a system of river improvement which will assure a six foot channel in the Upper Mississippi, to be completed within twelve years. It is also worthy of note that President Taft has taken the position that one project at a time should be taken up and completed. It is highly important that the Upper River should retain representation on the rivers and harbors committee in the person of Mr. Kennedy, through his re-election, in order to receive the consideration it deserves in the selection of the project that shall be pushed to completion first. If Mr. Kennedy is not re-elected the Upper Mississippi will not be represented on the committee when such selection is made and will stand no show of becoming first or even second choice. Other non-partisan considerations might be urged, but these are sufficient in themselves to warrant a unanimous vote for our present capable and indispensable representative.

In brief: It is important that Mr. Kennedy should be re-elected, among other reasons, because he is not only a member but the only member of the rivers and harbors committee on the Upper Mississippi; because his re-election is desired by Keokuk and Hamilton water power project, because it is also desired by Engineer Cooper as an aid to uninterrupted progress in the work of building the big dam; because the Upper Mississippi river should have a voice in saving what project of river improvement shall have attention first—whether it shall be the Upper Mississippi, the Lower Mississippi or the Ohio river—which it would not have if he were retired from congress at the present time. These are all weighty considerations and they should be given the careful and conscientious thought they deserve. Nothing could be clearer than that Keokuk, Lee county, and the First district owe it to themselves, in their own interest, to re-elect Mr. Kennedy by a majority in keeping with the necessity of continuing to profit by his invaluable services.

hickory brush, much less water. The judge most frequently sent into Lee county from an outside district is Judge Smythe of Burlington, a life-long and prominent Democrat. What the politics of the other judges it is unknown and cuts no figure in the matter anyway. In selecting district judges to send into Lee county the chief justice of the supreme court selects those whose terms of court coincide with Judge Bank's terms, without reference to politics one way or the other. Lastly, the plea that Lee county Democrats would not be represented upon the Lee county bench sounds rather ridiculous in view of all the facts in case. How much representation on the Lee county bench have the Republicans had during the past twenty, thirty or forty years? Or are we to understand that only Democrats are entitled to representation on the district bench?

Brinkman for Supervisor. To the Editor of The Gate City: I wish to call the voters of Lee county attention to the capacity of the county supervisors. Many voters do not realize the responsibilities of this important position. The board of supervisors of Lee county consists of three members elected from different sections of the county. They have the legal authority to audit all accounts and claims against the county, make all purchases, issue bonds, equalize the assessments, make the tax levy, appoint officials when there is a vacancy, and many other duties to perform.

I wish to say a word in behalf of the present member representing the lower district including Keokuk. Mr. Brinkman has been on the board two terms, and he has established a record commendable to himself as well as to the county. He is a Keokuk man; has lived here all his life, was a successful dry goods merchant for years.

Keokuk always had a representative on the board, previous to Mr. Brinkman. Mr. John Nagle, James F. Daugherty and other members from this district were men of business experience from Keokuk. A few years ago when the floods swept and destroyed over 300 of the county bridges, Mr. Brinkman was at that time on the board and it cost the county over \$110,000 to reconstruct the bridges, and within five months the bridges were replaced, and caused outstanding bridge warrants drawing 5 per cent interest. The board of street economy have reduced the debt to \$50,000, and last August the board had issued bridge bonds for \$50,000, taken up the warrants, and the bonds were sold drawing 4 per cent interest, and \$5,000 and more of the bonds will be taken up annually until paid. I appeal to the voters regardless of party politics to vote for Mr. Brink-



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