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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY. Pleasure and pain are equally important as a means in education.

Half of Colon was wiped out by a \$300,000 fire. Does that make it Semi-Colon?

Twenty-two plow companies have merged and the Omaha Bee appropriately calls the resulting organization the "gangs" plow.

It remained for a southern editor to call attention to the fact that in the eternal fitness of things Mr. Taft filled the fissure in the cabinet with a Fisher.

Uncle James J. Hill has cast another horoscope and finds that no baleful influence is threatening the nation. The world will now proceed to move on as before.

A northerner went to Florida to look over a land purchase. The Sioux City Journal reports that he found the distance too great for wading and the water too shallow for boating.

The railroad committee of the state senate has reported favorably on the bill to require bulletins to be posted at all stations showing what trains are late and how late, and to have these bulletins correct.

The mayor of Two Rivers, Wis. has issued a proclamation to the effect that the wearing of the harem skirt in that burg will be considered disorderly conduct. The presumption is that the mayor's wife has no use for anything of the kind.

The Chicago city election is in progress today. Taking it by and large, here and there, north and south, east and west, and fair and warmer, the Tribune gives notice that it will not be sorry to have the thing over. Many others feel the same way about it.

If Admiral Togo should come to Iowa on his proposed trip to America, how would it do to have Commodore Hull take him down the Des Moines river on a warship?—Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

If the idea is to sequester him it would work all right. But what has Admiral Togo ever done to deserve such treatment?

Gross earnings of all United States railroads reporting so far for the first three weeks of March make a somewhat less favorable comparison with last year than in the two previous months, the total amounting to \$25,053,371, showing a loss of 2.5 per cent as compared with the earnings of the same roads a year ago.

THE DECAY OF MANNERS.

Thomas Nelson Page writes in the April Century "On the Decay of Manners"—manners which are the hallmark of that life of quality, the foundation of which is good breeding, the native air of which is refinement, and the membership of which are all gentlefolk the world over. Here are some of the points:

"The bloom of the ripened fruit of civilization, and the proof of its perfection, is delicacy. 'Whatever the form may be, and there are many forms in which good breeding may present itself—as many, indeed, as are the incidents of social intercourse—whatever tends to put at ease the person one meets is put at the opposite of rudeness.' 'Whoever takes advantage of another we know cannot be a gentleman, for the first word of the law of good breeding, as the last, is kindness. The Golden Rule contains the last word of manners, as it does on most other laws of living.' 'The express train and the 'crush-hour' are in many ways great advantages, but they are not conducive to good manners.' 'To revive ancient good breeding and bring back the old-time manners, it is necessary to set aside money as the chief foundation of respect, and to set up once more the ideals of courtesy and kindly conduct. 'Women make both the manners and the morals of a people. Neither

rises higher than the gaze which women set in a community. 'If those who are gentlefolk—who possess the rare, but often unprized, treasures of refinement, culture, taste, and high ideals of living and thinking, would scrupulously hold themselves above pandering to vulgarly simply because it has wealth behind it, a society would soon be formed which would have not only the stamp of good breeding, but, as possessing the thing itself, would have the authority and power to dictate its own terms.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

After a comprehensive review of the business situation and a careful analysis of its salient features, the Christian Science Monitor concludes that there is no reason why anyone should become alarmed or discouraged over the comparatively quiet condition of business that obtains at present. It says there is nothing untoward in the situation, nothing that portends future trouble in industrial or commercial affairs. On the contrary the quieting of commercial movements is a pretty good indication that there will be no panic or financial stress of any kind. It is a natural result of the endeavors being made on all sides to bring about a more normal level of prices and a lower cost of living. Economies have been made in various lines of business in governmental and domestic activity, and still greater economies must be made before affairs are properly adjusted. Prices of commodities have been steadily declining until at present many necessities of life are selling considerably below the quotations of a few months ago. The Monitor goes on to say:

It is natural in a declining market, when prices of materials have been sagging or gradually, that manufacturers should refrain from buying their supplies in any greater quantities than are actually needed for immediate use. It is the part of wisdom to wait until the bottom has been reached before laying in materials or supplies of any kind in quantities for future consumption. Consequently, recent buying has been largely from hand to mouth. This policy, to a large extent, has restricted trade. Of course, important pending developments relating to corporations and to the tariff have much to do with the hesitation, but they are contributory rather than fundamental causes.

In the matter of economies and conservation this country could well profit from the example set by some of its foreign neighbors. Take, for example, the most important industry of all, that of farming. This country has been more than prodigal of its farm lands. Not only has the farm acreage decreased while the population has greatly increased during the past decade, but the nation has not taken good care of the land under tillage. It is just beginning to learn how to farm. A Parisian economist is authority for the statement that France, which covers an area equal to that of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Delaware, raises nearly half as much wheat as the United States and enough for its population of 40,000,000. In 1909 the yield of wheat in France was 356,574,000 bushels or twenty-two to the acre. In the same year the United States raised 757,189,000 bushels or 15 1/2 to the acre. American soil is younger and richer than that of France and the only conclusion is that Americans have not yet learned how to get the best results from the land.

That crop prospects are daily improving is evidenced by the steadily declining grain prices. Money continues abundant. There is less apprehension as to the ultimate result of the Mexican troubles. The iron and steel trade, although not buoyant, is fairly steady. Normal conditions generally prevail. In view of these things the Monitor concludes that if greater confidence were entertained most lines would enjoy a fairly good business.

RURAL PASTORS DEFENDED.

In an address at the recent church conservation conference at Decatur, Ill. Dean Skinner of Purdue University criticized rural ministers in these words:

'While farmers and the rest of the world have improved, preaching has remained of the same quality. Country preachers should go to college and learn agriculture. I can see no immediate hope of improvement, however, for any agricultural graduate can get \$1,000 to \$1,500 yearly and would scorn a preaching job.' 'A number of rural preachers have replied to this charge in letters to the Chicago Tribune. One of these, Rev. Norbury W. Thornton, pastor of Pisgah Presbyterian church, Orleans, Ill., says in defense of them:

'The rural clergy are not shut up in the country but they prefer it. They are tired of higher criticism, social degeneracy, and the empty pretenses of the city, and go where there are people who do not wield the big stick, but who have the love of God in their hearts. The country preacher is not only abreast of the times but he is abreast of the church at large.' 'Another country minister, a Congregationalist, writes: 'It makes me hot to think that a man supposed to know something can get a low man who are willing to devote years in preparing to serve their fellow men, and who do serve them at a salary equal to that received by the farmer's hired hand.' 'But Dean Skinner is not without defenders even among the men criticized. Rev. G. T. Nesmith, pastor of the Fourth Street Methodist Episcopal church, Aurora, Ill., who was recently the pastor of a country church, concedes that he did not overstate the matter. 'The rural church is not a progressive force. The average rural minister lacks social vision. He has no other than a theological one. He should be an expert in community

building and he cannot be this without an agricultural training. The fault, however, does not lie with the rural minister. It is, as a rule, self-sacrificing and hard working. 'The fault lies with the theological school and with our general assemblies and general conferences which fail to bring about the co-operation of the theological and agricultural schools that thereby there might arise a distinct profession—that of the rural minister who shall be expert in rebuilding a deteriorated rural community.' 'That the country church and its ministry have not kept pace with our times goes without saying.' is the opinion expressed by the Rev. J. W. Street, pastor of the Christian church, Mackinac, Ill.

'It is not so much a lack of salary as lack of recognition that affects unfavorably the rural minister. He reads about, dreams over, and studies the problems of the city until his message is unsuited to a rural community.' 'Whether located in rural neighborhoods or in city parishes, Episcopal clergymen are usually men well trained intellectually, who keep themselves informed as to the progress of learning,' said the Rev. W. E. Glanville, rector of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal church, Sycamore, Ill. 'The question of salary,' he said, 'is at present a critical problem with ministers. Livings are some times starvings.'

'The farmer does not ask the minister to know more of the farm than he does,' said the Rev. John G. Briggs, pastor of the Baptist church, Owatonna, Minn., 'but he does want what Robert Louis Stevenson asked of the minister—namely: to give him inspiration when the orange is squeezed out.' I believe that the real object of education is to improve the farmer rather than the farm.'

BRICKLAYING AND SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT.

Continuing his series of articles on Scientific Management in the April American magazine, Mr. Taylor relates how the average day's work of a bricklayer was increased from 150 bricks to 350 bricks. The science was applied to the trade by F. S. Gilbreth, who had been a journeyman bricklayer and who had been taught nothing more than had been known to bricklayers for 4,000 years, there being absolutely no progress in the trade in that time. After studying the motions of a bricklayer and deciding which motions were superfluous and the time lost in going through them, Mr. Gilbreth set about to do away with the necessity for them. He devised an adjustable scaffold upon which the bricks were placed at the same level with the wall. It was a scaffold on which the man stood in one place, while a little table was placed alongside him on which the bricks and mortar rested. It was so very simple an invention that one wonders why it was not thought of 4,000 years ago. The bricks were placed on this supplementary platform at just the right height, so that the bricklayer merely turned round, picked up a brick with a rotary motion of the body and put it on the wall.

'Mr. Gilbreth next found that every bricklayer as he raised the brick threw it over in his hands at least once, sometimes twice, sometimes three times. This was done for the purpose of examining the brick so that no chipped or imperfect brick should be placed on the outside of the wall where it would show. Mr. Gilbreth asked: Is this act of throwing up the brick for examination absolutely essential, or is it wholly wasteful? After a great deal of thought he devised the following plan for doing away with all of those motions. As the bricks were unloaded from the car or from the team, a laborer was stationed at a suitable bench, where the bricks were examined by him, and placed right side up, with the proper edge and the proper end on a wooden frame about three feet long, called a packet. This frame held about ninety pounds of bricks and was so constructed that the bricklayer's hand went right into it and seized the brick without having to disengage it from a tangle on the floor. He took a brick out in the exact position in which it was to be laid in the wall, without any throwing.

'Mr. Gilbreth next found that the bricklayer worked with one hand only at a time. Why? Because the brick pile being on the floor and the mortar board some distance from it, the bricklayer was too far apart for the man to take a dip of the mortar and pick up a brick at the same time; it took two motions. By building the scaffold by the method described, and by placing the bricks and the mortar close together, using a deep mortar box instead of a mortar board, brick-pile and mortar box were brought within the range of the bricklayer's eyes at the same time, so that he picked up a brick with the left hand, took a dip of mortar with the right hand and a single movement and then turned around, spread the mortar, and laid the brick in the wall.

'All bricklayers, after they set a brick, tap it down in order to get the joint the right thickness. From his experience in his youth, Mr. Gilbreth knew that if the mortar was properly tempered it was possible to place the brick at the right height with a pressure of the hand. The mortar was therefore carefully tempered, so that the bricklayer could readily bed the brick with pressure from the hand and thus save the time taken in tapping. 'Through this minute study of the motions to be made by the bricklayer in laying bricks under all standard conditions, Mr. Gilbreth has reduced his movements from eighteen to a brick to five, and even in one case to as low as two motions per brick.'

Discovered at Last. Chicago Tribune: Discovered, the o. t. conductor with the extension-sole shoes, etc. He runs on the Burlington between Hannibal and Keokuk.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

A Texas man whose wife gave him the choice of beating the carpets or painting the floors took the trick and committed suicide.

The Sioux City Journal wonders how it would do to have a five-mile limit law applicable to the homes of woman pestered by drunken husbands?

The Mexican revolutionists are said to be holding up the Pullman passengers. If the report is true this interference with the porter's monopoly may set the troops at San Antonio in motion.

Mrs. W. C. Brown, wife of the president of the New York Central, says she is prepared to do the milking on her husband's 70-acre Iowa farm, "and it would not be the first time, either," she adds.

Captain John E. Rowland, seventy-three years old, who commanded Mississippi river steamers half a century ago, journeyed all the way from London to St. Louis just to take a farewell look at the river. He started back for London immediately.

The Right Way. My uncle Tom says catching birds is easy when you know the proper way to do it, an' I guess perhaps it's so; He knows a splendid way, he says 'at hardly ever fails, Des 'creep up close an' drop a bit of salt upon their tails.

I tried it all the afternoon; I know des how to do. You see a bird down on the ground—but don't let it see you—Nen creep up near it wiv the salt, an be des awful still—I didn't catch a bird today, but tomorrow p'raps I will.

Florence Josephine Boyce in Woman's Home Companion for April.

Too Many Churches.

Sioux City Journal: Are there too many churches? Granted that there is not too much church; are there not too many church organizations? The presumption is that there is too much denominational pride, which is financially burdensome or which supplies excuse for separation from responsibility in church life.

Take the case in Larchwood, Lyon county, this state. The census gives the town a population of 424 against 450 in the census of ten years before. The pulpit of the Congregational church there has recently been vacated by Rev. Thomas Thompson, after three years of ambitious work. He made the church self-supporting—that is, he took it out of the missionary class. Two years ago the church building, which had stood since 1856, was destroyed by fire. It was a hard task to raise money to rebuild, but that was accomplished; but with the dedication of the new place the membership was less than before the fire. There was struggle to get back to the former membership with some show of success, but the financial grind continued hard and burdensome. With the incoming of this year the church received another setback. It seemed that about every family removing from the town was affiliated with the Congregational church. It appeared to the remaining members that they could not keep up the pastor's salary; the salary was such it could not well be reduced, and Mr. Thompson accepted a charge elsewhere, bearing with him the affection of his people, as the resolutions stand in evidence.

There are many vacant pulpits for the same reason. Too many churches do not add to the stock of religion, but serve to detract from it. The competition results in weaklings and sub-tracts from good neighborhood. There are not enough people in the small towns to be divided into so many classes, religiously or socially. In many places there is, so far as the world knows, but one society, as the social events of the community demonstrate. It is not easy to maintain a church in a little town in radical opposition to what the world knows. The church, organized to dispense the bread of life, is at distinct disadvantage as a starting.

There is a movement just now, which many regard with the greatest hopefulness, to attract men to active relationship with the church. Its promoters are disposed to cut out denominational lines. Those who take part in it may be Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Congregationalists, one thing or another or nothing in particular. That is one element of promise. It must be true in religion as in politics that "in union there is strength." What the churches call worldliness is associated with money getting and money keeping, and it will help the churches to get away from worldliness if they can succeed in removing themselves somewhat from the eternal grind for money.

In commercial life the principles of economy are being worked out through combination. The demand of the times is for business on a large scale. There is tendency among the churches to follow the drift, due to the fact, no doubt, of their relation to business and the standards of progress recognized by business men. Vacant pulpits are as bad for the religious reputation of a town as vacant stores and factories are for its business reputation.

Signs of Progress. Neola Gazette-Reporter: "Pud" Buchanan sported a new pair of shoes last week and he was so proud of them that Postmaster Bardsley had

fresh wall paper put on in the post-office to get even.

A Song of the Road. Oh, I will walk with you, my lad, whichever way you may. You'll have me, too, the side of you, with hearts as light as air; No care for where the road you take's a leading—anywhere—It can but be a joyful jaunt the while you journey there.

The road you take's the path of love, an' that's the breadth of two. And I will walk with you, my lad— Oh, I will walk with you!

Oh, I will walk with you, my lad, Be weather black or blue, Or roadside frost, or dew, my lad— Oh, I will walk with you!

Ay, glad, my lad, I'll walk with you, whatever winds may blow, Or summer blossoms stay our steps, or blinding drifts of snow; The way that you set face and foot's the way that I will go.

And brave I'll be, abreast of you, the saints and angels know, With loyal hand in loyal hand, and one heart made of two.

Through summer's gold, or winter's cold, it's I will walk with you.

Sure, I will walk with you, my lad, As love ordains me to, To heaven's door, and through my lad, Oh, I will walk with you!

—James Whitcomb Riley.

Why Pupils Dislike History.

Washington Democrat: In looking over the topics for the teacher's convention at Keokuk, we note that one of our teachers is on for a discussion of those reasons, that is to say, she is to discuss the reason why high school pupils do not like history.

That is very easy. That is just as easy as to explain why some people like parsnips and some do not. Parsnips were not made to eat at all, and according to our view they were treated as a joke, yet many people like them. Some people even like limburger cheese, but it is our notion that the only time a man really likes limburger cheese is when he is drunk. But be that as it may, nobody can tell why some pupils do not take kindly to history.

And, although we understand that Miss Field is an expert history teacher and we admit that she looks like a mighty bright woman, we doubt if she can give any reason why pupils do not like history any more than she can why some have red hair and others have black hair.

But as to why children do not like history, why do they not like many other studies? A person to like history must be born to it, although much help can be given if they hear it talked of a great deal in the home. In that way, children get the correct idea of history, namely, that it is not merely a dry as dust topic, invented only to annoy folks, but that it is a real live human interest story. Children are apt to look at history too much as some bug-a-boo when as a matter of fact it is merely the conduct of people who lived yesterday and who acted and thought and lived and moved and had their being very much as we do now.

And to excite interest in history, it is necessary to begin with local history, with what goes on around them, then take the county and then the state and the nation, and finally the world. Nobody ever began to study history and became interested in it, if he began with Kamchatka or the Fiji Islands and then traveled on towards home. It goes the other way out. History must begin like the waves from a pebble thrown into the lake, travel outward in concentric rings until the goal of all history of the world, modern, mediæval and ancient is reached.

We shall be anxious to see what Miss Field's view point is on this topic, for we are told she is a very bright young woman.

ELVASTON, III.

Our pleasant March weather has changed to very cool, freezing every night, almost enough to endanger the fruit crop, although our professors claim it is all right yet.

Some fear that the oats will be killed and as it is all sown it would be a serious affair. Our school directors have taken the liberty to cut the shade trees in the school yard, which we think was cruel. They should have taken a vote on it by the district at election and the trees would have been saved, we think.

Moline, where he has been employed in an automobile factory. Mrs. Perry of Bloomington, Ill.

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Bond of Sympathy.

Tramp to lady of the house—"Is that your husband going down the street?" Lady—"Yes." Tramp—"I know, then, that you will not be sensible to some slight bond between us when I tell you that I asked that man for a dime?"

How to Treat the Feet.

Many men and women, and especially clerks, suffer with aching, swollen and sweaty feet. Others suffer much from cold feet, or corns and callouses. This form of misery can be banished by the simple daily use of antiseptic vilane powder, a specific of extraordinary virtues. Obtain two ounces of vilane powder from any leading druggist and to a gallon of steaming water add a teaspoonful, also a tablespoonful of salt. Immerse the feet in this every night for a few weeks, ten or twenty minutes, and it will soothe, heal and remove all poisons and soreness. Corns and callouses disappear and cold feet soon become unknown. Any one suffering with their feet should have this knowledge.

60 Years Old, and Says:

"I had always been troubled with constipation and had taken a great many different kinds of pills and laxatives, but could never get satisfactory relief until I bought a package of Blackburn's CascaRoyal-Pills, and they gave me relief at once, and do not gripe or sicken. They are a God send to any one troubled as I was. I shall never be without them." JAMES CURRANS, Woodstock, O.

If you are old or young and troubled with constipation and attendant ills, write today for a Free trial package of Blackburn's CascaRoyal-Pills. Addressing a postcard to the Blackburn Products Co., Dayton, Ohio. Sold by all dealers at 10c and 25c.

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