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"BUT WHAT SAYEST THOU?"

At the time of the meeting of the National Educational Association in San Francisco last July Dean Sumner of Chicago quoted the following poem in the course of a sermon.

We have saved the soul of the man that killed. We have turned to shrieve the thief; We restored the pride of the man that lied.

And we gave him our belief; But for her that fell we have fashioned hell With a faith all stern and just— It was so old; and no man has told.

What our Lord wrote in the dust. We have sighed betimes of our brothers' crimes And have bade them be of cheer, For the flesh is weak, and the soul grown meek.

May yet read its title clear. But we draw away from the one astray As the truly righteous must. She is cursed indeed—and we did not read.

What our Lord wrote in the dust. For the men who thrived, and who killed, and lied— Who have slain the woman's soul— We have worked and prayed and have seen them made.

All clean and all pure and all whole. But we drive her out with a righteous shout In our Pharisaic trust. So the man goes free—but we did not see.

What our Lord wrote in the dust. —Wilbur D. Nesbit.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing the attempt.—Shakespeare.

New rendering of an old saw: All work and no vacation makes Jack an invaluable employe.

It has not escaped George Fitch's observation that cleverness in writing has spoiled many a fine fact.

One might about as well be a vermiciform appendix in a medical college town as a saloon in Iowa these days.

A state contemporary has an article on "The Basis of a New Party." As there is no such basis the discussion is wholly academic and speculative.

James J. Hill—good authority—says that the farmers of the northwest are facing a period of unbounded prosperity.

A writer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat voices an opinion that is likely to grow as one gets older and more observant, that most people who misbehave do so because they are a little crazy.

Methodist women, home and foreign boards, have just closed their fiscal year far ahead of anything they ever achieved before.

The same authority says that at least two methods of garbage disposal have proved effective in typical American cities: incineration and reduction.

In the incineration type all kinds of refuse, ashes, paper, rags, scraps of food, kitchen ware, etc. are fed together into crematories and burned.

In European works of this type the heat generated by the combustion with a forced draft is a source of considerable revenue.

One of the best examples of an incinerator plant in this country is the Milwaukee incinerator, which has been in full operation since May, 1910.

The national indoor championships of the Amateur Athletic union, to be pulled off in Madison Square Garden the nights of Tuesday and Wednesday, will contribute to the holiday enjoyment of the devotees of athletics.

Also of interest to the followers of sport will be the international tennis matches between the Australian team defending the Dwight L. Davis international trophy, and the American challengers.

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the grace of thankfulness. Move out of Grumblers' alley and make your home on "Thanksgiving street."

A CALL TO THE CHURCHES.

The National Child Labor committee at its annual meeting just held in New York City, issued a call to the churches of America inviting them to observe Sunday, January 25th, or Saturday, January 27th, 1912, as Child Labor Day.

These notable gains in the development of child labor reform in America indicate the wide-spread public interest and the timeliness of such observance of the day as the committee invites.

Although these gratifying results have been secured the report of the committee also calls attention to conditions against which every church ought to issue its protest, especially against the abuse of young children in coal mines, glass factories, cotton mills, cigar and cigarette factories, oyster and shrimp canneries, and in the sweat shops of many large cities.

Particular attention is called to the fact that although there are over thirteen thousand licensed tenement workshops in New York City alone, and that these licenses cover but a fraction of the houses in which home work is actually done by children, there is at present no law to adequately combat this evil.

Last year the committee announced that child labor in the night messenger service had been abolished in but two states. Through the continued activity of the committee nine other states have been added to the list this year, and the morals and health of these children thus safeguarded.

But in a majority of states it is still possible for young boys to be subjected to all the moral hazard involved in this service, and vigorous measures are demanded to correct the abuse.

In issuing this call to the churches, the National Child Labor committee makes three facts clear: First, that it is not asking the churches to contribute funds to its work on that date.

Second, the date mentioned is only suggestive. The committee will appreciate a public address on that date or some other more convenient date, or a brief discussion of the subject in Sabbath school, mid-week meeting, Young People's meeting, or in any manner most appropriate to local customs.

Third, the committee offers to send without charge up-to-date information covering the general subject of child labor, or any specific phase clergy men wish to discuss.

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Until lately American practice in the matter of garbage disposal has not been a matter of national pride. Two methods have been common: unsightly, malodorous piles of decomposing refuse have been—in some places still are—allowed to accumulate in the vicinity of dwellings, or cheap, ineffectual "disposal plants" installed and operated by greedy or dishonest private contractors have been run for a few years and then allowed to lapse into well-earned oblivion.

As a writer in the Journal of The American Medical Association well says, neither procedure is creditable to a civilized state. There is really no need for a continuance of the offensive and distasteful methods that have been commonly employed in this country.

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NOTES AND COMMENT.

The Washington Democrat predicts that Taft will be nominated and a Democrat will be elected.

"The decision on the Moon law is not a victory for prohibition, but for regulation," says the Creston American.

"A law that would send dishonest contractors to the penitentiary would not be a bad law," says the Webster City Freeman-Tribune.

An Iowa paper says there are two Roosevelts. "This is twice as bad as we thought," says the Burlington Gazette.

The Republican Editorial Association of Missouri will hold its annual meeting in Kansas City on Friday and Saturday, January 26 and 27, 1912.

The Council Bluffs Nonpareil says that the Democrats in Washington have a big job to keep the boat rockers from operating on Democratic prospects.

The Spencer Herald says the trouble with the Democratic political dope handed out by Des Moines newspapers from time to time is that most of it isn't so.

The Manchester Press says that if Cummins really is a candidate for the presidency it is not likely that there will be any serious attempt to prevent him from securing the Iowa delegation.

The Cedar Rapids Republican says there was never a President who had as many men trying to put him "in a hole" as President Taft has been beset with. "And still they have not accomplished their ends," the Republican adds.

"The fact is," says the Des Moines Tribune, "the saloon has been given up as an institution and is now merely tolerated where toleration seems to be the best way out. Practically nobody today looks to the permanency of the saloon. Its days are numbered."

The Sacrifice. Cedar Falls Record: It seems that Prof. P. G. Holden's fool friends are bound to get him in trouble. For several months they have been taking him up to the mountain tops, unfolding to his gaze the worlds to conquer in politics. They are not content to allow him to remain in his sphere of greatest usefulness, at the head of the agricultural extension department of the Iowa State College, but must needs ruin him for governor.

Such is the trend of affairs as indicated by a conference recently held in Davenport. Mr. Holden is being groomed for the campaign and an executive committee has been appointed to take charge of the forces that will be marshaled under the Holden banner.

The Record cannot be accused of being an enemy of Holden. It has always supported him in his undertakings. The writer has recognized that in Holden the people of Iowa, and especially the farmers of Iowa, have a man who in his particular line of work has no peer in America.

He is essentially a corn expert, an agricultural enthusiast, whose practical teachings and demonstrations have enabled the farmers of Iowa to grow two kernels of corn, almost, where one grew before. He is not a politician and while he might average up well as a chief executive we believe he is foolish to listen to the siren's song. His life work so well begun will bring him greater fame and be of much more benefit to the great state of Iowa than a brief political career, a career even though he should be successful must necessarily be spotted by bitter partisanship and the discord of factional strife.

Holden's fame as an agricultural expert, the man who understood corn and paved the way for its scientific growing would be much more valuable to posterity than that of Holden—an ordinary governor.

Russia Will Cool Off. Cedar Rapids Republican: Russia now threatens retaliation, by imposing on American goods an increased duty, the increase to be 100 per cent. Washington is said to be somewhat apprehensive under these proposals.

But they are more likely to be merely threats made in haste and in anger. Russia will have time to think it over and after she has thought it over, she will not do anything against America.

In such a warfare Russia has much to lose. The United States has always been the firm friend of Russia, but she can get along without that friendship, if it is necessary. It is most important that the rights of American citizens, whether they are Jews or Gentiles, shall be recognized. Anything less than that is a denial of national potency and integrity. It is more important that an American passport shall be valid and honored than it is to drive a good trade bargain in commerce.

Citizenship is higher than commerce and unless a nation has the courage to place it above commerce the nation does not amount to much.

We are sure that we are right in insisting upon American rights, the world over and therefore, we have nothing to fear from Russian threats. All great international questions will eventually be settled along the lines of what is right. Russia will fret a little and fume some, but in the end she will have to admit that the American contention is based on eternal justice as between great nations. We have nothing to fear so long as we

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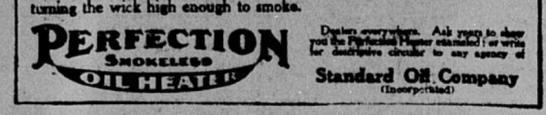


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