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New Trade Routes.

TRADE relationship between the Yankees of the north and the Yankees of the south is covered in a report to the department of commerce by John Hicks, the distinguished Wisconsin journalist, former minister to Peru, and now accredited to Chile. Mr. Hicks has found only what was already pretty generally known, but influences bearing upon the situation not heretofore so clearly brought out, are touched upon, and it is made more apparent why Europe enjoys so great a share of the trade of these South American countries, while the United States gets relatively little.

The fact is that there is a social, political and religious relationship between these countries and the countries of Europe, from which came the forebears of the people of the upper classes, that it makes it extremely difficult for our country to break in. Lack of easy communication and neglect of trade opportunity on our part are other important considerations. The report of Mr. Hicks is timely. Charles M. Pepper, the traveler and authority on Pan-American affairs, has just published a book entitled "Panama to Patagonia" in which many matters of interest concerning the trade possibilities of the west coast of South America are taken up. Mr. Pepper made his investigations with a view to ascertaining, approximately, what commercial results might be expected to follow the opening of the Panama canal.

Few people not interested in the subject carry in their mind a correct picture of the geographical relation between the principal cities of North and South America. If Lima, Quito, Valparaiso, Santiago, or any other city of western South America be spoken of, the popular conception is that it lies west yet these cities are almost due south from New York. The west coast of South America is almost on a line with the Atlantic seaboard.

With this in mind it will at once be seen that with the Panama canal open, there will be great opportunity for trade development. Ships that ply up and down the South American west coast, and others that take on cargo there and make the long voyage around Cape Horn, may then come almost due north, by a much shorter route, across the isthmus, and direct to New Orleans, New York, Boston or other ports.

There can be little doubt that the opening of the Panama canal will mark one of the great events of the world in its influence upon the trend of commerce and the forming of trade routes. It will outrank, in world importance, the opening of the Suez canal, and in its effects upon the commerce of the century following its inauguration, will show results that will class it in importance with Columbus' discovery of America, and the rounding of Africa by Vasco de Gama, the first navigator to open an all-water route from western Europe to India.

Congressman Longworth is asking the people of Cincinnati to forget that it was Boss Cox who introduced him to congress and to permit him to return on his own account. There seems now more than an even chance that his wife will be sent back by proxy.

Cabinet Salaries.

SECRETARY BONAPARTE in his argument for higher salaries for cabinet officers puts the matter too much on the ground of a comparison between government employment and the hiring of first-class men by the trusts. The trusts can offer a man no distinction among his fellows while the government, especially when it raises a citizen to the grade of adviser to the president, can and does confer on him a distinction which money could not buy.

If the matter were made entirely one of wages it is unlikely the government could compete with the trusts, however high it bid. But it is entitled to have considered in the contract the advantage which it gives and which is its alone to give. Elihu Root for example is said to have made a large fortune in the year he was absent from the cabinet, but he came back into it because the office of secretary of state had attractions for him which mere money grubbing, the successful, could not offset.

The government, of course, ought to pay its cabinet officers salaries which would enable them to maintain establishments in Washington. That \$8,000 a year will not do it is quite evident. It is barely adequate when the salaries were fixed and the scale of living has risen since then. The principal secretaries in the British cabinet draw three times the salary of the American cabinet minister. Great Britain is not able to pay its cabinet any more than America is. The need of a readjustment of salaries in Washington is apparent, but there is also apparent the fact that the government pays for a great deal of work which is not performed. Cabinet ministers themselves say that if they had the control of the departments they could do the same work with 20 per cent less help.

If the cabinet and congress are in earnest in their demand for higher salaries they might, as men in private employment do, demonstrate their claim to advance by savings in their departments which would justify an increase.

An eastern college professor says that men should do all the cooking. The world has had enough of pies like mother used to make and what it yearns for is sausage like father used to fry and ice cream like daddy turned the wringer for.

A Famous Case Ended.

AMNEAPOLIS jury has found Hamlet guilty of the murder of Polonius, with extenuating circumstances in the kind of whiskers affected by the assistant to the state and the fact that Polonius had the Napoleonic habit of listening behind closed doors.

Every jury which has heard this much-tried case has disagreed, or nearly every one, there being eleven men who held that so bad an actor as Polonius deserved his fate and a single man who held out for a verdict of guilty on the theory that Hamlet followed the American lead he would have killed the King instead of the Jack. He fooled his partner by leading low from a major sequence. This case has clogged the courts for centuries. It has been tried oftener and with little more result than the famous case of Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce reported in 34th Dickens, page 279.

With these two indictments out of the way it may be possible during the twentieth century to get to the Patterson vs. Patterson case, which has been hanging fire for five decades because of the absence of the defendant. Sherlock Holmes has agreed to produce him in court whenever the state is ready to go to trial.

According to Consul Ryder's report the president of Nicaragua has recently given a most remarkable concession for ten years at \$160 a year. The concessionaire is granted the right to station an agent in the custom house and tax exports of rubber 10 cents a pound over and above the government tax of 5 cents. The transaction appears a peculiar one. We could understand it, however, if we knew, as we do not, the president of Nicaragua "commuted" his interest in the concession.

An English Satire.

THE labor movement in England has made such marked progress in the past few years that it threatens to overturn the political control of the empire which has for ages been in the keeping of dual persons endowed with an inalienable right to rule, assisted by a few bright lawyers and lately by a sprinkling of eminent publicists.

The present house of commons contains for the first time in the history of the oldest and best-known parliamentary body in the world a separate labor, or, we should say in deference to English spelling, "labour" party. It contains but fifty members, but has an effectiveness quite out of proportion to numbers. The labor men are up and doing all the time. They have already taught the ministry of the quaint hyphenated Campbell-Bannerman to jump thru rings, over hurdles and to eat out of the hand. When the attorney general brought in a bill to give the trades unions nearly all the earth the labor members raised such a row in the commons that the attorney general withdrew his bill and went back to his bench.

The prime minister apologized for the document, saying that he did not see any reason why the government should haggle over the matter. He promised a new bill which would make trades union funds inviolable at law.

The landed interest stands aghast at the temerity of labor. It sees no present hope of staying the hand of change since the working people have the government well in hand and are jauntily conscious that the recent elections have demonstrated that standing together they have the majority of votes. The leading newspapers like the Times and Mail froth but cannot instill any resistant backbone into either the ministry or the tory opposition. The liberals know they came into power and the tories know how they expect to get back.

Ridicule is the only weapon left, and this is being used unsparingly to unmask the highbanded demands of some of the trades unions. A recent satire in the London Times is "A Middle Class Diary of A. D. 1915." It depicts graphically and with little harm, the influence of a family on which the unions have spent the last two house painters and a paper hanger. The head of the house has not asked for any improvements but he is obliged to maintain and pay these men because the unions have sent them. The workmen complain of the food, whistle "Tannhauser" and slowly but surely ruin the interior aspect of the house at 2s 4d an hour. The owner is driven almost to insanity. The family is saved by the paperhanger falling in love with Lucy, the daughter. They are married and with Lucy, the influence of the groom admitted to the waiters' union. His wife remodels his clothing into a dress suit and he begins to practice whistling, which he believes to be the principal business of a good union man.

The satire is biting and has enough of a basis of truth to give it spice. The labor movement in England has not lost anything by excessive modesty. Nor did the aristocracy while it held power make itself common by concessions.

General Kuropatkin is now demonstrating that in the hands of men truly great the pen is mightier than the sword.

Reading for Children.

IN today's Journal may be found the first of a series of articles on books and reading for children by Mrs. A. C. Ellison, formerly in charge of the children's department of the public library. Mrs. Ellison is an authority on this subject. She has personally directed the reading of a great many children in this city, has co-operated with the teachers to their profit and advantage, and what she has to say on this subject will doubtless be of interest and of great value to many parents who are anxious that their children shall read the right things and yet do not always know themselves what the right things are.

It is to meet just such a demand that Mrs. Ellison has secured these articles from Mrs. Ellison. The subject is treated in a series of three articles, not because they exhaust the subject, but because with that limit they go far enough into it to be of practical help to all who wish to profit by expert counsel on a matter of importance.

Cassie Chadwick is said to be pining under prison life. The lady should have taken that into consideration years ago. The state does not advertise its institutions as summer resorts.

Business Manners.

THE importance of manners in business has begun to be recognized by American business men, but that the habit of polite deference to customers has penetrated to all classes of employees cannot yet be asserted with truth. Brusquerie is still quite apt to characterize the American retail clerk as a desire to please. The division of mercantile establishments into departments, and the consequent solicitude of his branch of the business has had a tendency to weed out many incompetent and uncouth subordinates, but not all. There are occasionally to be found in the best regulated city establishments salesmen who have no higher sense of their professional position than to hand out unsolicited advice or even to question the propriety of the customer making known his demands in the form of an ultimatum. Something else just as good is often pushed on his attention and his refusal to take it is looked upon as a personal reflection upon the clerk who offers it.

To be sure, the insulting clerk exists on sufferance, a surfer born of the American habit of letting things go. It is more than twenty years since Herbert Spencer took the American people to task for this habit, holding it up as a national weakness rather than as the evidence of strength we had fondly pictured it to ourselves. This was very well when foreigners did not visit us, but now it is not only out of place in itself, but it gives the whole nation a very bad appearance as an outsider.

It is proper that the American people who have a well-established name for deference to women on the street and in public conveyances should begin to insist that those who serve them should do it cheerfully and with a well bred professional air. The clown clerk must go.

Let us be just to Aldrich. He stood to be saddled much quieter than the president expected.

Sanitation Wave in Germany.

WHEN staid and sober lands become inoculated with a fad they take it as seriously as we do ourselves. Germany is a land to which we look for steady adherence to the established orders. In that country beer, it is proved, historically, astronomically and mathematically, is non-intoxicating when taken with pretzels in a palm garden, your wife and children being present and assisting. Likewise there the cheese which in other lands would be relegated to the health department for fumigation is just getting good. Yet reliable Germany is capable of falling victim to a devouring passion—not necessarily for cheese—but for reform.

Such a passion is now sweeping over the empire. It has to do with the question of sanitation and so strenuous are its operations that a German nowadays scarce dares to raise the dust. Numerous town councils have passed ordinances regarding the length of women's skirts to the end and for the purpose that they shall no longer sweep the streets and taint the air with dust, debris, lime, plastering, hair and cigar stubs. In the town of Nordhausen, in Saxony, the fine for wearing a trailing skirt is equivalent to \$7.50. This sum is so nicely adjusted to the cost of having the average priced skirt rebuilt that it is suspected the aldermen took expert advice before fixing the penalty.

Nordhausen is a public ownership community and we may expect to see a municipal skirt factory established at which garments fulfilling all the requirements of law will be sold at a profit which will add to the street sweeping fund. A skirt department with a superintendent of manufacture can be established at a very low cost, a convenient unused room in the city hall being well adapted to the purpose. Skirt manufacturers will be employed at union rates. The short skirt party will soon put a full ticket in the field pledged to the immediate production of women's wear. As a by-product the city factory may turn out men's overalls and children's bibs.

A Novel Defense.

SUCH an incident as the trial of the former president of a local life insurance company, which has been going on in the district court during the past week, is calculated to start two lines of reflection—one with respect to the extent to which men are ready to confide their dearest interests to the care of those who are willing to assume the responsibility, and the freedom with which men who manage to take on such obligations sometimes proceed to play at ducks and drakes with the sacred trust committed to their charge.

Considerable surprise has been expressed in our hearing at the verdict of the jury in this case. The general expectation seems to have been a disagreement. There is plenty of sentiment to the effect that there ought to have been a conviction and a good deal to the effect that under all the circumstances agreement on that side of the question was not to be expected. The fact of most importance is the plea on the part of the defendant that money taken by him, and which he was accused of having taken with intent to defraud the company was taken to reimburse himself for money paid to public officials to secure the suppression of an unfavorable report about an insurance company in which he was interested. In other words the use of money for bribery is the defense against a charge of grand larceny. We do not know whether such bribery was committed or not. We have only the word of the defendant, who pleads such unlawful use of money as a defense for his own action. We have never heard of a defense of that kind before and suspect that it is unusual.

On the other hand we are well aware that reputable concerns are sometimes confronted with the alternative of substantial loss at the hands of grafting public officials or the payment of a consideration for official favor. And yet it must be evident that no sound and legitimate enterprise or undertaking can afford to make compromises of that kind. If there is nothing wrong there is nothing to be concealed; if everything is as it should be malicious and unjust attack from official or other sources can do little harm. In this case the representation is that the defendant was held up and that as an insurance company is an institution against which not even a breath of suspicion may be blown without damage, it was necessary to ward off that danger at any cost. This might be more forceful as a defense if it did not happen that the company which he claims to have taken so much pains to protect from official censure was one which he had contracted to buy for the purpose of consolidation with his original company. It would also look better as justification of the \$3,500 appropriation to the benefit of the defendant if the matter had been taken up by him with his directors, and their approval secured before the check was written in his favor.

But perhaps further pursuit of an unfortunate and unsavory tale would not be profitable. A matter of such moment could hardly be allowed to pass unnoticed as if it were a matter of everyday happening. But we hope for permanent relief from this kind of trusteeship of entrusted funds in Minneapolis when these cases are disposed of.

The effects of the doubling of the saloon license in Chicago has been to remove so few saloons that there is talk of doubling it again.

Mr. Morton on the Equitable.

THE JOURNAL is in receipt of a letter from Paul Morton, president of the Equitable, in which he says:

"Now that the reform measures recommended by the Armstrong committee and its able counsel have been enacted into laws and the reforms must be instituted and carried out, can you not, with satisfaction to yourself and benefit to your community, consent to a life insurance in companies whose management meets with your approval?"

The Journal does and always has advocated life insurance and has constantly emphasized in its recent discussions its opinion that the solvency of the companies was not involved in the question of their business methods. Mr. Morton in his letter regrets that 27,000 policies of \$1,000 or less were allowed to lapse. This regret will be shared by those who, having felt it their duty to comment upon the state of affairs in the Equitable under the former management, were not able to prevent people from taking action in the matter which was against their own interests.

Mr. Morton also alludes to the fact that he opposed some of the reforms suggested by the Armstrong committee. The Journal remembers that he opposed the prohibition of tontine contracts and has wondered why he did so inasmuch as the presence of this unacknowledged liability appeared to be one of the profligate temptations to corruption under the old management. Mr. Morton's adherence to and advocacy of this speculative form of contract in his appointing in view of all the just condemnation it has received.

The Equitable, under the new management, is certainly greatly improved. Thru the examination undertaken by the company itself its assets have been placed on a rock bottom basis; bad investments have been gotten rid of; its idle cash in bank has been converted largely into interest-paying mortgages; its expense account has been reduced in an amount of \$1,200,000 a year; non-paying foreign business has been cut off entirely. These are commendable and businesslike reforms. The Journal is not in the business of recommending companies and Mr. Morton did not, of course, expect this paper to recommend any. The Journal, however, accepts the opportunity afforded by Mr. Morton's letter to repeat its confidence in the principle of life insurance.

The Chicago News is asking the legislature to turn out a primary law which will be strictly constitutional. This can hardly be guaranteed unless the courts shall be restricted in their review to the question whether or not the legislators did the best they knew how.

An English traveler has just discovered that the best English is spoken in Kentucky, that is the best Kentucky English. Did this traveler ever run into any of George Ade's Indiana French? It is said to be quite commy ill fut.

Detroit companies will not hire telephone girls who are over 30. At that age it is conceded that "central" ought to be "busy" with the baby. Another reason may be that there are no girls over 30.

The Methodist revival has been declared "unfair" by the labor union people because the Methodist Book Concern employs non-union printers. The Methodists will have to hold non-union meetings.

Rockefeller now wishes he had kept the muzzle on Chancellor Day and very likely Chancellor Day also believes it would have been a good thing.

A little one-round got between Turkey and England might have been interesting but it would have been criminal—especially for Turkey.

As a "jest fore Christmas" boy the Standard Oil company does not appeal to Superintendent Roosevelt.

"Fairly remunerative" leaves too much room for discussion to be a useful phrase in a public law.

When the volcanoes and earthquakes stop to rest the Filipino bandits may be counted on to erupt.

HOW THEY SING IN BOSTON.

Springfield Republican. Everyone labors except our distinguished progeny. He reposes in a recumbent position within our residence thru the day.

His pedal extremities idling upon the bronze of the steam radiator.

Serenely engaged in extracting nebulous atmosphere from a tobacco receptacle of mundane matter. Our maternal mentor receives soiled linen for the purpose of cleansing it.

And in this connection I should include filial Ann. Indeed, everybody is engaged in some variety of occupation in our domestic habitat—Excluding, a primarily suggested, our distinguished progeny.

The dry dock Dewey, even at three miles an hour, distances the submarine tariff revision.

Progress of the Rate Bill.

NOT being a "great constitutional lawyer" nor what the late John J. Ingalls once called another Iowa senator, "a great constitutional ass," Senator Allison was able in a few minutes' speech yesterday to lift some of the fog which has settled around the rate bill.

Granted the fall assumption that the commission will act for congress, Mr. Allison contended its orders were in effect acts of congress which could be no more reviewed than other acts of congress. The courts can and do look into the constitutionality of congressional enactments, but they are not empowered to go any further. Hence he concluded that this was as far as the courts could go in reviewing orders of a law passed by congress.

To put it another way, if congress should remain in session the year round and directly make rates under its constitutional power to regulate commerce between the states, the courts could go no further than to inquire whether congress had exercised that power in a constitutional manner. If congress should delegate to the commission the duty of carrying out the law during its recess, the courts would again be limited to an inquiry as to whether its acts were constitutional. This is Senator Allison's argument. It is based apparently on the assumption that congress has the right to delegate this amount of responsibility to the commission and that insofar as it acts thereunder congress acts.

However, the Allison amendments provide for pretty liberal court review of commission-made rates. The rights of shippers are protected to the extent that restraining orders against the commission cannot be obtained without 60 days' notice to the commission and then not from a single judge but from a bench of three, insuring, first publicity of the complaint of the carrier, and second concurrence of three judges. Without this amendment a single judge in chambers might sign an order setting aside the action of the commission pending a hearing of the case.

In addition the revised Allison amendments provide that appeals shall be taken directly to the supreme court and there shall have precedence over all except criminal cases.

On the question of intent the Hon. George W. Perkins of New York no doubt holds that the Minneapolis jury knows its business.

The Standard Not a Joke.

A MAN who went to hear Mark Twain and by mistake got into the hall where Joseph Cook was lecturing reported afterwards that the lecture was funny but not so blanked funny. So one might say of the defenses of the Standard Oil company to the indictment brought by the Garfield report. Nobody believes these defenses true and yet nobody takes the absence of a reasonable excuse for its performances seriously. Here is a giant corporation dealing in a monopolistic manner with one of the necessities of life in this age of heightened civilization when luxuries are momentarily passing into the realm of necessities. It has covered the country with a network of pipe lines and refineries. Under equitable conditions its immense plant and its unlimited capacity for production of refined oil for light, heat and power would be an unlimited boon to the people. But as the Standard Oil company is organized it has become such a menace to the public peace that the country could almost afford to go back to the time when petroleum was unknown and begin over again to get out from under the clutches of an organization which has violated every natural and statutory law of the country.

Its own admissions and the proved accusations of others have convicted it of practices which make the raids of the robber barons of the middle ages look respectable, for they at least took the chances of physical injury in their robberies. Yet it gets the endorsement of smug preachers and servile college presidents because of its ability to give. It bribes legislatures and the people look upon the acts as a part of the politics of the time. It intimidates judges and the verbal twists of its highly paid attorneys are quoted as Solonic wisdom. Its managers evade the processes of the courts and the chief response is the publication of cartoons which represent the sheriff as having a joke on him. The president of the United States denounces it in a message to congress and its vice-presidents set up a chorus of vituperative counter-charges against a person of the president, backed by a chorus of hungry educators who hope for its bounty.

It is time the people took a serious view of the Standard Oil company in its relation to the future of America. Its work is too coarse.

PLEA FOR A FIFTEEN-MINUTE SERMON.

Pittsburg Gazette. We have all heard of the clergyman who, upon reminding a young woman parishioner that there is a sermon in every blade of grass, was reminded, in turn, that "grass is cut very short at this season of the year." The tendency of the age, indeed, is toward condensation. People live in flats, own folding baby carriages, and even drink condensed milk. There is no reason why sermons should not share in this general condensing process. People nowadays are more intellectually nimble. They are quicker to catch a point and the elaboration of ideas, after the style of the old three-decker discourse, is not required. The preacher who knows his business can say enough in fifteen minutes to keep one thinking the rest of the week.

WANTED GIRL WITHOUT APPENDIX

Fond du Lac Letter to Milwaukee Sentinel. WANTED—GIRL FOR GENERAL REMOVED. Work. One who has had appendix removed. L. Bradley, 316 Linden street.

The above advertisement appeared in a local paper this morning. The reason for it is that Mr. Bradley, who is a mail carrier, has been unfortunate enough to have had two servant girls taken ill with appendicitis, which seems to have become epidemic in Fond du Lac. He is now determined to take no more chances in the way of sending girls to the hospital for operations, but wants one who has undergone an operation and is willing to work for him.

HE IS A "TYPE"

Detroit Journal. James R. Day is a well-fed, well-satisfied, smug pedant, a very big man in a very small community and conscious only of the first condition. He doubtless has made his life success leaning gracefully over the banquet table, with one hand tucked into his coat, talking airy Christian doctrines upon rigorous sectarian lines and bringing tears to the eyes of sweet old ladies with his pleas for "manly Christianity" and more money for foreign missions. Of course, we don't know much about James R. Day, D.D. To be honest, we never heard of him until he vaulted into the spotlight yesterday with interview and picture. But we are strangely familiar with his type.

NOT PASSED ON YET

Chicago News. Those aldermen of Nordhausen, Saxony, who passed an ordinance forbidding women to wear trailing skirts in the streets will learn by consulting their wives whether the ordinance is valid and binding.

A NATURAL GAS LEAK

Detroit Journal. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s Bible class club has gone out of business. Standard Oil's new press agent having discovered in it a dangerous leak.

TAKE ALL THAT'S OFFERED

Detroit Journal. With a request to have her old debts to the amount of \$5,000,000 paid, San Francisco seems to be taking the relief movement rather literally.

SHOW THIS TO YOUR WIFE

New York Herald. Chicago man was permanently disabled while chopping wood.

Hoot Mon

If you were a boy again what books would you read? This is a pertinent question because the public schools nowadays try to keep track of a boy's reading and if it is not up to the mark, endeavor to guide his taste into better channels. It seems to me this is good constructive work on the part of the schools and must be productive of excellent results: One of the plans used in the New York schools is to invite the boys to write compositions on their reading. The superintendent reads the essays submitted, not with the idea of marking the pupils, but to gain a knowledge of what they are reading and what are the mental results. One boy recently wrote an amusing criticism of Conan Doyle's sketches of Brigadier Gerard.

"It is a medium-sized book," he wrote, "with a dark red cover. It has the name of 'Brigadier Gerard.' It is the most interesting book I ever read, and in parts, funny in others. However, there is a mistake and that is that his life is not connected. It only tells of the main exploits."

The boy's criticism shows the difference of viewpoint of the author and the reader. To Conan Doyle, Brigadier Gerard was only a peg on which to hang some glittering adventures. To the boy he was real and he certainly considered it a mistake not to tell all his life.

This boy would probably approve of the plan of "John Halifax, Gentleman," who is carried by the author from childhood thru to the time when he becomes a grandfather himself. But there are lots of dull spots for boys in "John Halifax," while there is always something doing in "Brigadier Gerard." Perhaps some day another will arise with Miss Muloch's patience of detail, Barrie's appreciation of youth and Dumas' capacity for weaving plots. Wouldn't he write stunning books for the youth!

But to the reading of other days. I asked a mature person, an educator, who is probably interested in this effort to learn what the boys of today are reading, whether he was conscious of having read anything in his youth which was positively harmful. He remembered a few books which he wished he had not read. There was a time in his life when he read monographs on the Indian question bound in yellow paper. He remembered having acquired from these books and having used at home the exclamation "the ravens are coming." He had not the remotest idea what it meant, but its utterance led to inquiry from his father. Little by little the story came out and after a painful interview in the woodshed he decided to read the Bible every once in a while. The Indian novels were being purveyed from the postoffice by the son of the postmaster, who had set up a stand in the room and was flooding the little town with this sort of literature. Father complained to the postmaster, and was informed that it was nobody's business what his son did. And father, who had some talent for mathematics, went into politics, the final result of this incident being a change of postmasters and political feud in the town which may be going yet for anything he knows to the contrary.

Then he went thru the period of reading the innocuous tales in the Bonner, Leigler and the New York Weekly. "But the curious and gratifying thing," he added, "is that I have not the faintest remembrance of those stories, while I believe I can substantially recite 'Ivanhoe.' I can do everything with it except to pronounce the name of the Templar aloud. As for Dumas, I used to be able to sing the 'Three Musketeers,' tho I do not consider it a remarkably good book for boys. There is some very cheap stuff in all three of those books. Dumas does not appear to have come to take himself seriously until he wrote the last of the trilogy."

But after all is said for or against the classic writers of tales, such as Scott, Dickens, Dumas, Stevenson and the rest, it is found by the schools that Horatio Alger remains the favorite of the boys as Louisa M. Alcott does of the girls. Now Alger makes the school teachers tired and they wish the children would not read him, tho he has not been excluded from the libraries. His boys are good boys, but of the Smart Alecky order. The hero always leaves home to seek his fortune and Alger is held responsible for more lads running away from home than any other writer. But Alger never ran away from home himself. He just stayed by his parents until they put him thru school and college and made a Unitarian minister of him.

A boy in the school referred to above wrote concerning Alger's books: "The moral is very good for any boy; it shows how a boy can become a man of wealth and it also shows that honesty is the best policy." Another Alger review concludes: "After a few days Paul himself started a necktie stand and became rich."

The practical aspect of these books is that they hold up immediate wealth as not only the one thing desirable, but as feasible to a green boy without capital or experience. If he will but run away from home success is assured.

But the legitimate is not entirely neglected by boys. One youth who had browsed thru the plays and written a classical essay on "The Merchant of Venice" even ventured into that dark realm, Shaksperian biography. "William Shakspeare," he remarked with confidence, "was born at Stratford-on-Avon in 1564. He received his knowledge and learning at the free grammar school of Stratford. He has written many plays and published them in different languages. After his marriage he became a great actor in London and received 200 pounds a week."

From all the testimony it would appear that it is better for boys not to read the authors who make a specialty of writing for them. These authors fall into a silly habit of writing down to their constituency. They also adopt false views of life which they see will appeal to their constituency. They do appeal to the unsophisticated and so far as they make any impression at all it is a bad one. The writers who have written truthfully have on the whole done more for boys than the specialists even if they did use some words which the young reader stumbled over and construed some sentences which nobody short of a trained philologist could comprehend. —James Gray.

SOMETHING TO PLEASE THE CHILDREN.

Something to please the children, Something to entertain! Shall I dance, my dears, or wiggle my ears, Or balance myself on a cane! Shall I stand at the parlor easement And sing to the crowd below! Or pour hot tea over Grandpa's knee In a comical way I know!

Something to please the children; Anything dull will do! Shall I lash myself to the mantel shelf And poke my feet up the flue! Shall I spit hot wax on the carpet Or cover my nose with soot! Or gum my hair, or drop a chair On the top of my gouty foot!

Something to please the children; Something that's light and gay! Shall I whistle and scream at the butcher's team So the horses will run away! Shall I hang the cat to the curtain, Or scare Aunt Jane with a mouse! Shall I stutter and groan thru the telephone And then set fire to the house!

Something to please the children; Nothing that's trite and tame! They crow with glee as they come to me— I'm never at loss for a game. They greet me as Uncle Henry, And jolly good times they see In the jivial ways and genial plays Of an elderly man like me. —Wallace Irwin in The Saturday Evening Post.