

THINKING AND OBEYING.

“Captains, what do you think?” I asked. “Of the part your soldiers play?” The captain answered, “I do not think— I do not think—I obey.”

BASHFUL YET FEARLESS

If I had been caught in such a situation by anybody but John Benton I should have been terribly annoyed. There I was sitting on the floor of the nursery with hair tumbled, my face red, and a great rest across the front of my shirt, where it had been caught by a nail a few minutes before during a fierce blindman's buff scrimmage.

My little sister Alice was having a party and of course I had to assist in entertaining. There were twelve, seven boys and five girls. When John Benton tapped at the door I said “come in,” carelessly, supposing it was one of the servants.

“Not at all, Mr. Benton,” said I, as I scrambled to my feet. “We are pleased to see you. Sit down on the piano stool. The chairs have been taken into the other room. We have been playing blind man's buff.”

“I received this invitation,” went on Mr. Benton, taking an envelope from his pocket. The gilt-edged card within read: “Miss Latour requests the pleasure of your company on Tuesday, December 23, at five o'clock.”

“I looked reproachfully at my seventeen-year-old sister, Alice. She had sent one of the printed invitations, in which the printer had neglected to insert the name ‘Alice,’ to John Benton, and the great booby had taken it for granted that I was the Miss Latour, so he had written in full dress—a nice contrast to my torn dress and disheveled hair.”

“I did not care much what I said to John Benton. Ever since I had met him at the Warren's ball, three months ago, my brothers all decided that he was ‘in love with me,’ and was too bashful to tell me so.

“Not that he was backward where men were concerned. My brother will look me to the Stock Exchange one morning, and I saw John Benton, with his hat on the back of his head, grasping a broad rail with one hand and shaking the other, holding some papers in the face of a savage looking man, and shouting at him at the top of his voice in the most delectable manner.

“But Mr. Benton was not thinking about the market when we were taken to the piano stool in his dressing room, and white necktie, and sat there with one of the most sheepish smiles I ever saw on a young man's face.

LAKE TAHOE'S ANTICS.

Mysterious Rise and Fall of a Body of Water on Crest of Sierras. Lake Tahoe, that mysterious jewel on the crest of the Sierras, again attracting attention because of its strange antics. John K. Tanner, who has spent years on the borders of the lake, and who owns timber land near it, states that the lake has fallen nearly six feet within the month.

“I have spent ten years around Lake Tahoe,” said Tanner recently, “but I have never seen it fall so rapidly or to such an extent as in the last few weeks. Before Christmas time we first noticed the waters were receding. It was gradual at first, but within the last week it seemed as if the lake had found another outlet and that it would empty itself, so rapid was the fall.

“Two years ago, instead of falling, the lake, without any apparent cause, began to rise, and at one time residents of Truckee were organizing to prevent, if possible, the destruction of their town in the event that the dam at the mouth of the lake gave way. When the danger seemed greater the waters began to recede.

“In places the lake bottom never has been found. The claim has often been made that it has a subterranean outlet which contracts and expands this condition being brought about by volcanic action. The lake itself is claimed by some scientists to be the crater of an extinct volcano.

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THE TEST OF OFFICIAL FITNESS.

By Gov. Hughes of New York. Every governmental scheme finds its ultimate test in the character of the man who may be brought to its execution. Men who in trade will resort to dishonest methods and unfair practices in competition will attempt to fatten themselves at the expense of the public if they are elected to office.

Whether powers of supervision and regulation will be wisely exercised depends, not upon the words of the statute book, but upon the character of the supervisors and regulators; and you must have a higher quality of citizenship in those who administer the laws than in those whose conduct makes the laws and their administration necessary.

Between the man who attempts to fool the people in order to get rich and the man who attempts to fool the people in order to get office, between him who seeks his personal profit through an abuse of trust as a director and the man who uses public office to serve himself or his personal friends, there is nothing to choose.

World or Women—Which Will Change? By Ada May Krecker. It does not seem unreasonable to expect women in the long run to give to the world something of their own nature. It is only what they have done in the home. That is why the homes where they are queens are thought ruffled and beautiful and why the big outside world where they are slaves is called hard and cold.

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PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

WHERE DO WILD ANIMALS DIE?

By Dr. Theodor Zell. Where do wild animals die? This question has often been asked, and many learned naturalists have tried to find satisfactory answers, but even at the present time comparatively little is known that would throw a clear light upon that subject.

In a large number of cases the animals are killed by other animals or by man and eaten. Of all living creatures man is the most bloodthirsty, and more animals fall victims to his greed, cruelty or appetite than to the murderous instincts of carnivorous or other animals.

Some have made the assertion that certain animals, when they feel the approach of death, retire to some hiding place, a cave, a hollow tree, or some crevice in the rocks, and there await the end. That may be true and is decidedly probable, but does not explain the fact that only in rare cases are the remains of dead animals found in such places.

AMERICAN CHARACTER CONTRADICTIONS. By Dr. Felix Adler. We have no great leadership in politics or in other fields. The average American intelligence is high, but we have not the peaks that tower above the average. No country needs great leaders so much as a democracy, and in no country have they appeared less than in our democracy.

TWO NOTORIOUS ANARCHISTS. ALEXANDER BERKMAN. EMMA GOLDMAN. The bomb-throwing affair at Union square, New York City, served again to bring to public notice several of the apostles of disorder, chaos and anarchy. One of these is Alexander Berkman, another is Emma Goldman.

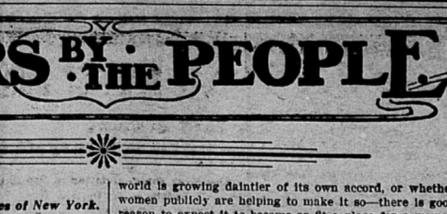
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THE REWARD OF FAITH. Bret Harie had bushy hair, very piercing eyes, and a mustache which soon became white. He was apparently deeply attached to his children, and he told me a very funny story about one of them, which I fear has appeared in print, but not with the names attached.

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The successful swine raiser is the practical one. He thinks out his work and then works out his thoughts. Solis where the sorrel grows readily and clover will not get a foothold may be put right by the application of lime in some form.

Since hen manure is a very concentrated fertilizer, it should be put on the garden quite sparingly. If applied too plentifully it will kill vegetation and even young trees.

When the poultry is confined, and particularly during the winter months, meat scraps or other animal food should be provided to take the place of the insect life which they feed upon extensively during the spring, summer and fall months.

Alfalfa as Horse Feed. A recent publication of the bureau of animal industry, by I. D. Graham, on the uses of alfalfa for farm animals, summarizes data on the value of this feeding stuff for horses as follows: Horses and mules thrive on alfalfa pasture.

When alfalfa is fed to horses in considerable quantity the grain ration must be proportionately reduced and an abundance of other roughness furnished. When horses have attained a mature age and it is desirable to change from other hay to alfalfa, this change must be very gradual, and the alfalfa selected for the purpose should be advanced in growth at the time of cutting that which is to be fed to cattle or sheep.

The day of cheap hired help on the farm is becoming a thing of the past. This fact is forcing itself on the mind of the farmer and he no longer tries to seriously evade the situation. Another proposition presents itself at this point, and that is, that the farm help of the future should be more advanced in growth at the time of cutting that which is to be fed to cattle or sheep.

The department of agriculture places the number of animals on the farms in the United States, up to January 1, 1908, as follows: Horses, 19,962,000; average price per head, \$34.41; total value, \$18,867,530,000. Mules, 3,869,000; average price per head, 107.70; total value, \$416,939,000. Milch cows, 21,194,000; average price per head, \$30.67; total value, \$650,057,000. Other cattle, 50,073,000; average price per head, \$16.80; total value, \$845,038,000. Sheep, 54,031,000; average price per head, \$3.88; total value, \$211,738,000. Swine, 56,084,000; average price per head, \$3.06; total value, \$338,030,000.

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