THE BOSSIER BANNER

W. H. SCANLAND, Editor and Proprietor

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TRUTH-TELLING.

The test of a civilization is its regard for truth. Truth is nothing more than honesty. The habit of telling the truth begets accuracy of statement, and the habit among a people of hearing and expecting the truth produces the truth. Honest men who have no intent to deceive are called truthful, but if they are lax and careless and have been habituated to loose statements, and themselves place no great value upon truth for its own sake, they are pretty sure to be inaccurate, and therefore untrustworthy. For this reason, perhaps, Sir Walter Scott declared that the right education for a young man was to learn to fish and to tell the truth.

Travelers who have been intimately acquainted with the peoples of Oriental nations speak with disgust of the duplicity, the universal lying, the writhing indirection, the monumental and ingenious mendacity of all classes. The Oriental lying is said to differ from the species in this couutry, in that English-speaking men often lie when there is some apparent advantage near or remote to be got by deceiving, but the Orientals lie constantly and seemingly from an artistic or perverse motive when there is nothing to be gained by deceiving nor to be feared from speaking the truth.

In barbarous or despotic countries the persistent and ineradicable duplicity and falseness are to be explained by the fact that there is ever present a fear of injustice, or cruelty, of a rule governed wholly by caprice and extortion. Fear of oppression and injustice makes of the inhabitants shrinking cowards. Traces of the influences of a personal government, or of the power of corrupt courts in which rewards and preferment and fortune for many men rest largely upon whim, are to be found in the coldly cynical essays of Lord Bacon, who, with all his natural predilection for noble truth, yet writes of dissimulation and simulation as if they were arrows which the statesman or negotiator might find convenient to carry in his quiver as a part of his natural regular equipment.

In the light of freedom and in modern times there is no incitement to falsehood from the form of government or from conditions over which the individuals do not have control. People may lie now as ever for gain, favor or place, or for any advantage, but the incitements of the civilized community of to-day are in the direction of truth-telling. The liar is held in greater disrepute to-day, perhaps, than in former times because he is more dangerous to the world. An immense amount of the important business of the world is done to-day by word of mouth and on honor, and breach of faith would mean chaos. The truthful man is held in high esteem because every violation of truth is "a stab at the health of human society."

Truth is the courage to be honest, and in general the attitude of a man toward facts will depend upon the training he has had and the company he has kept. Doctor Johnson, who was so careful to tell the truth and to state it accurately that all the eminent men of his time who were his intimates—of his "school"—were noted for their veracity and attention to the truth, gave this counsel:

"Accustom your children to a strict attention to truth, even in the most minute particulars. If a thing happened at one window and they, when relating it, say that it happened at another, do not let it pass, but instantly check them; you do not know where deviations from truth will end."

Any one who has examined the subject of legal evidence or the discussions on the subject in physiological and philosophical works will know how difficult it is to secure intelligible testimony of a plain case from a number of witnesses. Ten men who occupy the same side of the street have witnessed a murder in daylight, and in court the variations in the testimony of eight of the men were so extraordinary that if the two men of strong sense who saw the essential facts had not been present to tell a plain story the disposition of the judge and jury would have been to disbelieve the whole occurrence as a mere fabrication.

All truth is important, but all facts are not of equal importance. A person of feeble powers will, in reciting an occurrence, dull the ear of patience with the recital of the most trivial and unimportant details which do not affect the action or the conclusion, and will come down to the heart of the story limpingly. Some people pay so much attention to trivialties in a contentious spirit that they miss the truth. A man says that the peach crop is a failure and that there are no peaches this year. A foolish or tiresome person comes along and says that he jumped into the orchard and found three shriveled ones on a blasted tree. The mousing man is a weariness to the spirit.

The man who has accustomed himself to truth-telling from youth and has acquired the habit of dealing openly and fairly with his fellow men is a marked man and distinguished in his community. He always has a high local reputation. His word is his bond; his life is a benefit and his example a fine influence. Nothing is so beautiful in character as a scrupulous regard for truth. Shaftesbury says:

"The most natural beauty in the world is honesty and moral truth, for all beauty is truth. True features make the beauty of the face, and true proportions the beauty of architecture, as true measures that of harmony and music. In poetry which is all fable truth still is the perfection. Truth is the most powerful thing in the world, since even fiction itself must be governed by it, and can only please by its resemblance."

THE STATE PRESS.

Mansfield Enterprise: The land-owning farmer is the most independent and should be the happiest man in the world.

Haynesville News: Mr. Oscar Braselton has been farming for forty years and says that he has never bought meat or meal during those years. Kansas City and Chicago would starve in thirty days if this was the rule throughout the South.

Vermilion News: The people are now over-taxed, and instead of increasing taxes, they should be reduced. There are several useless Commissions and Board, which should be abolished, and also a number of useless officials, who should be turned out.

East Carroll Banner-Democrat: Some persons in the State are advocating a bond issue of a million dollars each for good roads and the Panama Exposition, which is now being boomed and which is receiving favorable mention on every hand. We do not believe the voters of the State would take favorably to two such huge propositions, and if they come to be endorsed one or both would be defeated at the polls. The promoters should be careful in what they are doing, and we believe any fair thing will receive the favorable endorsement of the people.

New Orleans Item: The general principles which the New Orleans Educational Association has set forth as a campaign platform are sound, and the remedy it suggests offers a greater opportunity for improvement. Local option in the choice of books will assuredly present some opportunities for new evils, but such a system would be more easy to watch and the responsibility for abuses could be more easily fixed. The people seem to be determined to make the Legislature change the present system in one way or another. In this case, local option probably presents fewer objections and greater advantages than any mere modification of the powers of the present State Board of Education.

Well said by the Claiborne Guardian-Journal: Though it be true that the cause of education is moving on at rapid strides, there is one point in the system that should be watched. There is danger of the contaminating and poisonous infection of the politician. The pnblic schools should, as far as possible, be kept free from partisan politics. Politics should have no part or parcel in the public schools. When the slimy hand and cloven foot of the partisan politician is seen and felt in the public school room the cause of education and the interest of the children are neglected. We want no auto-plutocratic centralized hand raising the big stick over the public school room. The teachers, principals and superintendents should be elected by the people.

A correspondent of the Arcadia Argus would like to know how the Senator and Representative of Bienville Parish stand on the following questions:

"The abolishing of that now notorious Game Commission, which makes and unmakes laws at its pleasure and assumes for itself more power than the Legislature. The main object of this commission seems to be to build up a political machine in this State and the money for this purpose is extorted from the poorest class of people.

"The measure proposed by State Superintendent Harris, and in the advocacy of which he is supported by every school official in Louisiana. This is the proposed enactment of a law giving Parish School Boards the power to levy taxes.

"The abolishment of the State Board of Equalizers. A more useless body than that does not exist.

"It no doubt would also interest the voters of this parish to know how our Senator and Representative did vote on the bill creating the obnoxious Game Commission and also on that equally as obnoxious bill known as the Marks Bill, which makes our school officials and the Parish School Boards the masters of the people instead of their servants."

Among other resolutions, the Lincoln Parish Farmers' Union, recently in session at Ruston, adopted the following:

"We are opposeed to the present expensive system of Commissioners and Game Wardens.

"We urge the necessity of a revision of the law governing the selection of the text books. We also urge the repeal of Act 49, Senate Bill No. 6, of 1908, which law we believe to be arbitrary and violative of the true spirit of Democratic government.

"We favor the passage of a law authorizing the expenditure of all funds raised by special taxation through agencies selected by the people who pay such taxes."

To Rome.

[St. Louis Republic.]

All roads lead to Rome. Thither went Gauls, Goths, Lombards—militant; and Egyptians, Greeks, Idumæans, under the white flag of peace.

The relaiion of Rome to the world is of philosophic interest. Rome is only a clearing-house; the city never originated anything except law. Rome supplied the string; the rest of the world furnished the beads. Rome has no springs—only a great pool, into which poured the waters of the streams of the world.

Rome did not originate the forms of beauty which appear in her architecture; she borrowed them from Greece. She had great engineering skill; she invented the concrete dome; but the ornament of the Pantheon she slavishly copied from Greece. Her poets obtained their inspiration from Greece and Greek learning filled her schools. Under the Empire Rome's great men came from North Italy, from Gaul, from Britain, from Spain. Their native genius they brought from far; in Rome they found the theater for its display.

Christian Rome tells the same tale. Rome did not originate Christianity; it came to her from Syria; but with her acquisition of it her peculiar genius asserted itself; she became the clearing-house of Western Christianity. The great Christian movements of the Middle Ages originated elsewhere. The Franciscean order arose in Umbria, the Dominican in Spain; Bernard was of France, Anselm of Britain. But at Rome the roads met.

Rome in the days of the Renaissance was as barren of original impulse and as hospitable to alien genius as the Rome of earlier days. She received the artists of Venice, Florence, Umbria, Spain, and by their means made splendid her domes and palaces. Then, as always, the genius of the city was directive, not original.

Modern Rome, the capital of Italy, is also the creation of genius not Roman. Garabaldi, Cavour and Victor Emanuel were not Romans. At the present moment a Venetian occupies the throne of the Vatican; a Savoyard King rules from the Quirinal. The might of Rome is a thing mysterious and inscrutable; the city is "a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof," with a strength austere and terrible, that, sooner or later, draws all things to itself.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat, in opposing the Aswell-Harris political scheme to ignore the Police Juries of the several parishes of the State and give the power to the School Boards to levy direct taxation, without consulting the voters, says:

"There is no need of it. No State in the Union has given more willingly to schools, nor increased more rapidly its revenue for educational purposes. The voters on their part have given money willingly whenever they felt that they could afford to do so; but they themselves are the best judges of what they can afford to give, and they should be allowed to decide this matter. We do not believe that there is any reason, or that it is good policy, to push the question of more school revenue too far. It will be far better for the schools if this proposition fails, for if it carries it will arouse much popular antagonism from those who oppose the tax and think they ought not to be deprived of their control over it. As it is, any just and fair tax, which the voters believe they can pay and the benefit from which they can appreciate, is quite certain of meeting with their approval. The proposition amounts to a declaration that the people of Louisiana are opposed to schools and cannot be trusted to give them the money required for their adequate support. This we know to be untrue, and presents the people and the entire school question in a false light before the world."

The Mansfield Enterprise wants the Louisiana Legislature during its next session to repeal as many useless laws as it can, but "do not write another on the statute books. It is too much encumbered with rubbish now."

Gems of Thought.

Bacon: To choose time is to save time.

Thomas a Kempis: God deceiveth thee not.

Alcott: It needs a man to perceive a man.

La Bruyere: He is good that does good to others.

Plato: As the government is, such will be the man.

Duffield: Sabbath days—quiet islands on the sea of life.

Sheridan: Tale-bearers are just as bad as the tale-makers.

Giles: Liberty is worth what the best civilization is worth.

Holland: The choicest thing this world has for a man is affection.

Johnson: Suspicion is no less an enemy to virtue than to happiness.

Montesquieu: Republics end with luxury: monarchies with poverty.

Plutarch: Philosophy finds talkativeness a disease very difficult and hard to cure. For its remedy, conversation, requires hearers; but talkative people hear nobody, for they are ever prating. And the first evil this inability to keep silence produces is an inability to listen.

Epictetus: Let no man think he is loved by any man when he loves no man.

Mencius: He whose goodness is part of himself, is what is called a real man.

Montesquieu: Political liberty is to be found only in moderate governments.

Cicero: Subtlety is only a deceitful manner of applying reason to do mischief.

Ouida: A cruel story runs on wheels, and every hand oils the wheels as they run.

Epictetus: Fortify yourself with contentment, for this is an impregnable fortress.

Carlyle: Speech that leads not to action, still more that hinders it, is a nuisance on the earth.

Godwin: He that revels in a well-chosen library, has innumerable dishes, and all of admirable fiavor.

Plutarch: Nor is drunkenness censured for anything so much as its intemperate and endless talk.

Daniel Webster: Every unpuished murder takes away something from the security of every man's life.

Webster: Confidence is a thing not to be produced by compulsion. Men cannot be forced into trust.

Richter: Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.

Lew Wallace: Riches take wings, comforts vauish, hope withers away, but love stays with us. Love is God.

George Eliot: More helpful than all wisdom is one draught of simple human pity that will not forsake us.

Cumberland: Of all bad things by which mankind are curst, their own bad tempers surely are the worst.

Alcott: One must have lived greatly whose record would bear the full light of day from beginning to its close.

George Eliot: I've never any pity for conceited people, because I think they carry their comfort about with them.

George Dawson: Half the gossip of society would perish if the books that are truly worth reading were but read.

Dickens: I would rather have the affectionate regard of my fellowmee than I would have heaps and mines of gold.

Hillard: The natural instincts of a generous heart shrink from an inveterate hater as a child shrinks from the snake in his path.

Cicero: True glory takes root, and even spreads; all false pretenses, like flowers, fall to the ground; nor can any counterfeit last long.

Addison: There is no greater sign of a general decay of virtue in a nation, than a want of zeal in its inhabitants for the good of their country.

Plutarch: Talkativeness has another plague attached to it, even curiosity; for praters wish to hear much that they may have much to say.

La Rochefoucauld: Although men flatter themselves with their great actions, they are not so often the result of a great design as of chance.

Humboldt: Where there is love of solitude, then the mind has already assumed an elevated character, and it becomes still more so when indulged in.

Washington: The aggregate happiness of society, which is best promoted by the practice of a virtuous policy, is, or ought to be, the end of all government.

Alcott: A government for protecting the coaser interests of the body, business and bread only, is but a carcass, and soon falls, by its own corruption to decay.

Ruskin: There is nothing so great or so goodly in creation, but that it is a mean symbol of the Gospel of Christ, and of the things he has prepared for them that love him.

Haydon: If men would only take the chances of doing right becausa it is right, instead of the immediate certainty of the advantage of doing wrong, how much happier would their lives be.

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The Weissenbrunner Prayer.

This oldest fragment in the High German dialect, says Julian Hawthorne in "The Literature of all Nations," was found in the Benedictine monastery at Weissenbrunner, in Bavaria. It belongs to the eighth century:

I sought out and heard among men
The greatest of wonders.
Earth was not, nor heavens bright.
There was not hill or tree,
Nor sun shone, no moon gave light,
There was not the sea.
There was nothing, so no end,
Beginning, bounds, were there:
Only God, man's tenderest friend,
And His angels fair.
Holy God, Almighty God,
That madest sky and land,
That gavest man so many a good,
Give me to understand
Thy grace, in right belief and will
In wisdom and in strength,
To fight against the powers of ill,
And come to Thee at length.

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Services held every third Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Rev. B. C. Conant of Gibsland, Pastor.
Sunday School held every Sunday at 3 p.m. Mr. W. A. Fortson, Superintendent.

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Services held first Sunday in each month at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Rev. A. J. Wharton, Pastor.
Sunday School held every Sunday at 10 a.m. J. Perry, Superintendent.

PLAIN DEALING METHODIST CHURCH.
Services held fourth Sunday in each month, morning and evening. Rev. J. L. Lay, Pastor.

PLAIN DEALING CHRISTIAN CHURCH.
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