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SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1903.

A GOOD BILL.

Mr. Angell, of Roanoke, has introduced in the House a bill providing that treasurers, clerks of the court and commissioners of the revenue be required to furnish bond in some guaranty or security company doing business in this State, in a sum not less than ten per cent. in excess of the total amount to be received annually by them.

This is a wise measure, and it should by all means pass. The State has lost too much by personal security, and the day for that sort of security is past. First of all, it is not fair for any officer to ask a friend to go on his bond when he can have the service performed by a company whose business it is to give security for a reasonable consideration. When a man signs his name to a security bond he takes all the risk and receives nothing whatever therefor, and at best can but come out even. He has not the privilege (or if he has he does not feel like exercising it) of examining the books of the officer whom he is guaranteeing, and so he must be entirely in the dark and trust entirely to the honesty and fidelity and efficiency of the man for whom he stands to save him from harm.

In old times, when there was no other system, it was necessary for men to perform these duties for each other, but there is no occasion for it now, and it is unfair for any officer to put his friend in such a position. If such favors must be, it is very much better for the friend to pay the cost of the bond in a guaranty company, and so relieve himself of the responsibility.

But there is another argument in favor of this bill. When guaranty companies take risks, it is a matter of business with them, and they make it a point to keep a watchful eye upon the man they guarantee. They know all about his personal habits; they know whether or not he is living beyond his means, and they claim the right of looking into his accounts every now and then to see that he is discharging his duty properly.

Time and again we have urged the adoption of the inspection system in Virginia, and we believe as much as ever that this should be the rule. But if all the officers of the State were bonded in reliable guaranty companies there would be less necessity than now exists for government inspection.

Mr. Angell's bill is timely, and we hope that it will pass.

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY.

In connection with the cowhiding of a preacher by a Virgina judge, much was said about the "old Virginia way" of settling difficulties. If by that is meant that when Virginia gentlemen have a disagreement they should meet and fight it out hammer and tongs and tooth and nail, we enter our protest.

Virginia gentlemen do not hold that it is necessary for them to settle their disputes after the manner of brutes. There is a more excellent way, and this was aptly illustrated in Richmond during the present week. We beg pardon for referring to a personal matter of this character, but it is too valuable an illustration to let slip.

A distinguished member of the House of Delegates had read in the editorial columns of a reputable newspaper in Richmond an article which he construed as a reflection upon himself and his associates. Smarting under what he conceived to be an insult, he spoke upon the floor of the House with much warmth and used language which in other days would probably have provoked a personal encounter.

The editor must have been sorely provoked, but he had the courage to control himself, feeling sure that the legislator was chafing under a misapprehension. He knew that he had not intended to give offense, and believed that with proper explanations the legislator would see the editorial in a different light. Friends took the matter in hand, and there was a polite correspondence between the principals, with the result that the whole affair was adjusted in a manner entirely honorable and gentlemanly and without compromise of courage or of dignity.

We submit that this is a more excellent way of settling disputes among gentlemen than a resort to "the code," a resort to the horsewhip, or even a resort to the good old fist and skull fight, and let us hope that for all time to come this will be the Virginia way.

TERRAPIN CULTURE.

There is a demand exceeding the supply for the essential ingredient of the terrapin stew, and Secretary Cortelyou regards the matter as one of such serious moment as to require special investigation, with the view of finding a remedy.

It is lamentable to think what would be the consequence if there were not enough real, bona fide terrapins raised to feed the epicures, and how ashamed we Americans should be if this great country were reduced to a mock turtle basis. Then the White House dinners would lose much of their attractiveness—Booker Washington would despise them—and the Delmonicos of the land would gasp with despair. The brand new Department of Commerce and Labor therefore has sent Dr. Hugh M. Smith, of Washington, D. C., to Japan to report upon terrapin culture and fisheries generally in that island kingdom.

The Japs, besides being very able and accomplished jugglers, are said to be the most successful fishermen in the world. In that country what we know as the terrapin, they call the "suppon" and it is found in nearly all their rivers and marshes and is much esteemed for its flavor.

Many suppons are raised in ponds constructed for that purpose. "Under favorable conditions the pond in which they are raised has a muddy bottom, ranging in depth from one to three feet." The eggs are deposited in the sunny part of the bank. In the sandy area around the pond, which easily becomes dry, fences are erected to prevent the escape of the turtles. When the season for depositing the eggs is over, wooden boards about one foot in height, are erected on the lower margin of the bank to protest the young from the attacks of their parents and other enemies. Within the barrier are buried a large number of pots to afford shelter to the newly hatched turtles."

Dr. Smith, who will represent our country on this important tour of investigation, is deputy fish commissioner of the United States, and is said to be learned in his vocation. We take it, therefore, that he is not ignorant of the resources of the Eastern Shore of Virginia and of Eastern North Carolina, where the terrapin sings a beautiful song and makes a stew fit for kings and congressmen.

OLD AGE.

Mrs. Olive Cleveland, of Lafayette, N. Y., is now one hundred and two years old, and is still in possession of all her mental faculties, although she has failed rapidly of late and would welcome death. "I pray the good Lord," she said the other day, "that He will not let me live to be one hundred and three years old. I have aged terribly since I was a hundred years old and people began to notice that I was having birthdays. When I was a young woman of ninety I used to do as much work as any of them, but now I am getting old. It has been several years since I was able to read, and time passes rather slowly. After you have lived a hundred years you have aches and pains you never had before. You begin to lose your memory; you can't see as distinctly as you used to, and you can't hear well. You forget how your friends look and you miss the sounds of their voices and you seem to be in another world. You know that there is much going on of which you are not aware, and yet you can't help it."

Life is sweet, but when one has outlived his day it becomes a burden. Sensible men and women want to die before their day of usefulness is done, before they are laid on the shelf and become a burden to themselves and to their friends, before they have worn their welcome out.

Yet old age is not necessarily burdensome, and it is quite possible for old people to be cheerful and happy and altogether companionable.

The venerable Senator Hoar seems to be such a man; seems to have learned the art of growing old gracefully. Age seems to have mellowed him, to have softened his nature, to have made him more sweet tempered. There was a time when he said harsh things about the South and the South felt unkindly toward him. Yet within the past few weeks he paid a most beautiful tribute to the chivalry and the courage and the principles of the Southern people.

In nature age either makes sour or sweet according to the subject acted upon and according to the process.

OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE.

Some of the Richmond bankers are not grieving because the Aldrich bill failed to pass. They concede that if the bill had become a law it would have had the effect to prevent the drain upon the bank revenues by the subtreasury operations, and would have done that much good. But it would not, as this paper has several times pointed out, have met the demands of the situation. It would have been at best a transitory makeshift, and our bankers fear that it would have been in lieu of any other currency legislation.

It is more than probable that the country will have another object lesson before Congress is again in session, and then it is to be hoped there will be genuine currency reform. We have had enough of patchwork and of makeshift. It is time for Congress to adopt a scientific currency measure that will bring relief, not for a day or a week, but for all time. The Aldrich bill was at best merely a temporary expedient, and that is all that its author claimed for it. The next time the subject comes up we hope that a sure-enough currency bill will be brought to the front and intelligently discussed and finally adopted.

There is a hard-headed man in New York, who sold his skull to a physician for $500. The agreement, however, is that delivery cannot be demanded until death. The fellow was exhibiting in a Fourteenth Street museum last November when he came under the eye of Dr. Ziter. He performed feats that would kill or at least render unconscious, the majority of men. These consisted in breaking heavy china plates, chair legs and heavy glassware over his head. After watching the performance for some time Dr. Ziter engaged Mandy in conversation, and eventually the contract was made.

Dr. Ziter says this skull is the most remarkable one he ever has seen, and that it is all in one piece, apparently, and that that makes it so solid as to guard the brain effectually. Hence the blows he receives do not make him unconscious.

It is stated that H. Krohnskyn, of Seoul, Korea, is in this country for the purpose of laying in a supply of gaudy, cheap idols to be sold to the heathen in the East. That is a queer sort of commerce! But it reflects less severely upon the heathen purchasers than upon the Christian sellers—if indeed the latter be Christian.

It is said the natives kicked heavily at first against this innovation, but have now become reconciled, in view of the superior gaudiness of the American work.

The whole thing sounds like a horrid joke, but we are afraid that is isn't.

Several hundred colored men of this city gathered last evening in Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, in Twenty-fifth Street, between Seventh and Eight Avenues, where they listened to Bishop Derrick, of the First African Methodist Episcopal District, making a stirring speech in support of the attitude recently assumed by President Roosevelt in regard to appointing to public office colored men. The meeting also was one of the first steps toward the formation of the "Roosevelt Invincibles," an organization which will favor the renomination of President Roosevelt.—New York Tribune.

Ah there, Mr. President!

Though centenarians are conceded to be very rare Baltimore has found one, in the person of Mrs. Maria Setitia Lish, who was one hundred and two on Thursday. She was born in Lenarkshire, Scotland, March 5, 1801. She was a Miss Smith and her father was an officer in a Highland regiment. When quite young she married Dr. Lish and emigrated to this country. Eighteen children, 11 boys and 7 girls, were born to them, all of whom are now dead.

Exercising the authority vested in him by the State Constitution, the Governor of West Virginia has cut down to the extent of $150,000 the appropriation bill recently pessed by the Legislature.

"Taxing district No. 1," of Shelby county, Tennessee, in trying to put on city airs. Memphis wants to get her municipal affairs investigated by the courts.

Tennessee, which is clamoring for a new Constitution, could not do any better than to adopt Virginia's as a whole and it would save a lot of trouble and money.

Corbett and Jeffries will proceed to do an awful lot of boxing with their mouths and they have at least five months in which to pull off this part of the mill.

The unsophisticated Virginia darkies who sung their way to unsympathetic New York are well tuned now for "Gwine back to Dixie."

Congressman Maynard announces through the press that he has at his office in Portsmounth for distribution to his constituents "debates in Congress and garden seed."

It is alleged against him that President Ingalls, who is a candidate for mayor of Cincinnati, writes poetry. That settles it.

He does not like it much but Billy Mason, of Illinois, has to open letters addressed to ex-Senator Mason.

A man named Francum is chairman of the school board at Blowing Rock, N. C. He ought to be a congressman.

Referring again to the weather: So far, the returns seem to favor the groundhog theory.

Anyhow the President put the new senators right to work.

And now the spring shopper beginneth to shop.

Trend of Thought in Dixie Land

Nashville American: The South cannot hope to escape criticism and injury in many ways so long as the taking of human life is treated as though it were a minor offense—less liable to be punished than the crime of horse-stealing.

Mobile Register: Nearly every day some public man indulges in language in debate or in interview that would not be countenanced in his own house or be deemed fit for the ears of refined people. It should be stopped.

Knoxville Sentinel: Explaining out of his Southern policy and the extra session of the Senate, on his hands both at the same time, will no doubt give the President all the strenuousness he is looking for.

Birmingham Age-Herald: It is unkind in President Francis to whoop up France over a Louisiana Purchase Exposition, for she is ashamed of the price she got for an empire.

Personal and General.

Mrs. Kate Henderson, who has just died in Baltimore in her eighty-seventh year, was at one time betrothed to Edgar Allan Poe, the poet dedicating several poems to her.

It is reported that Hallie Erminie Rives, the novelist, is desirous of securing Mount Airy, the home of the Calverts, founded in 1660, as her home.

Stuart Robson, the actor, was taken ill in Philadelphia last week during his engagement in "The Comedy of Errors," and has had to abandon his tour, being confined to his apartments in New York.

Rev. John K. Nutting, head of the Utah Gospel Mission, told the Presbyterian Ministers' Association in New York several days ago that if Mormonism increased at the rate it has the last twelve years, in another decade they will control the West of the United States, from Canada to Mexico.

Sir Oliver Lodge said recently in a London speech that "society might be divided into the overworked and the unemployed."

Short Talks to the Legislature.

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: If the Legislature doesn't do something pretty soon it will be saluted by the people of Virginia with that classic appeal, "Won't you come home, Bill Bailey?" accompanied by a copious flow of bricks.

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: One committee of the Legislature has actually completed the work assigned it. It would be consoling at least if the others would "rise and report progress."

West Point News: With so many liquor bills before the Legislature, it's a wonder the Solons don't imagine that they are holding their deliberations in a rum shop.

Newport News Press: There seems to be a conspiracy on foot to wreck the Cumming redistricting bill by throwing open the switch and ditching it in the committee room.

"BOBS" *His Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs.*

By REGINALD LANG. Copyright by Philip Little.

CHAPTER XXII.

"Well, Bobs, it is quite a while since you have been here. What have you been doing with yourself?"

"I have meant to come and see you, Anita, but each time that I have been here you have been out, and lately I have been so busy with some plans and drawings for a big house in Chicago for a Mr. Elliot, which I have had full charge of, that I have had no time to go anywhere."

"You have had full charge of them? Why, Bobs, is that not quite a rise for you in a year and a half?"

"A rise; I should say so. Mr. Elliot took a sudden and unaccountable fancy to me the first time that he saw me—"

"How odd!" The girl gave a side glance out of her eyes and spoke plainly, but her tone was mocking. She could understand Mr. Elliot's feelings perfectly.

"Yes, it was," replied the matter-of-fact Bobs, who had not as yet arrived at the point of more than liking Anita. He was fond of her, every one was, but as yet, he had not received an awakening.

"He came to see Mr. Vanbrugh about a house. I showed him the plans of several, and he was not satisfied and wanted special ones drawn in the Gothic style. As I said, he took a fancy to me, asked me to dine that night at the Holland house, and when I told him of my ambition, and how I meant to ask Mr. Vanbrugh to allow me to assist in the drawing for his house, he immediately announced his intention of seeing Mr. Vanbrugh, and asking him as a personal favor to let me do it, and he did. The old man demurred for a time, but finally agreed, and I have been hard at it ever since."

"With success, I hope?"

"I think that I can say yes. I do not understand it, but this Gothic style seems to come out of the ends of my fingers. I see it all plainly, and all that I have to do is to put it down on paper."

"It is odd. Can you not explain it at all?"

"I cannot, unless there is some previous experience which gives me the power. Of course, I am too young to think much, and I do not know much about it, but I have heard of the theory that has it, that we carry on our existance from time to time, our former characteristics coming out in the new individual."

"I did not know that, but then I do not read anything to speak of that is worth reading."

"I did not read this entirely myself. I was told of it, and then read a little on the subject afterwards. It is a very old idea, but I think that it is a very interesting one, indeed."

"Well, what do you suppose that you were that all this ability should crop out as it has. There must be something that has brought out the architectural faculty and made Gothic designs pour out of you, so to speak, like water."

"I am sure that I do not know. I may have worked on cathedrals on the continent or in England. I may have been a monk or a choir boy hundreds of years ago, and lived in some Gothic atmosphere. I cannot explain it, it is there."

"You are a strange boy."

"Strange, why?"

"To think that your just running out and catching onto the backboard of my dogcart, saving me, and getting smashed up yourself, should have destroyed your memory and brought out all this talent. It is awfully queer. Do you know that you are very interesting?"

Bobs blushed and fidgetted. He was not used to this plain spoken young girl, who threw remarks at him that he least expected.

"Why no, I never thought of it at all, to tell the truth."

"Evidently not, but you are, just the same. It is just as well that you should know it. I am not one of those persons who think that you never should tell a person to their face that they are interesting or the like. I believe, of course, that some people cannot stand it, but you can."

"It is awfully good of you to say so, but I fear that it will make me terribly conceited."

"O, no, it will not, and if I see any signs of that I will take means to cure you of it at once."

"I hope that you will.'

"O, never fear that I will not. What you young men need more than anything else is some kind person to keep you from getting too conceited."

"Do you really think so, or are you only making fun of me as usual?"

"Of course I am not making fun of you, but I did not refer to you in particular, but the sex at large when young."

Her feelings for Bobs were far in advance of anything he knew or understood; while she, young as she was, was thoroughly conversant with woman's wiles. There are women who start in their cradle with the desire and ability to handle men, and Anita Van Nostrand was one of them.

"Then I feel relieved. I was afraid that I had already acquired the article and that you were going to begin to haul me over the coals. I have tried not to be conceited, as I have nothing as yet to be conceited about."

"Most young men that I know that are suffering from the severest attacks of the malady have the least reason for it."

"Yes, I suppose that is very often the case. I must leave you now, Anita, as I have bored you long enough, and I have a great deal of work to do still on Mr. Elliot's plans."

"You never bore me, Bobs, but I will not keep you from your work. Come again soon."

CHAPTER XXIII.

"What reward shall you offer?"

"I think that we are justified in offering $25,000, or even $50,000. The heir to Grassmore is, or rather was, living a month ago. This notice is in a different handwriting, but I take it the same people are keeping us informed."

"It is a most curious case. I doubt if it can be duplicated. The motive I do not understand, as no ransom has been asked for his return."

Mr. Parks, the elder, of the firm of Parks, Parks and Redmond, solicitors, leaned back in his chair in his London offie cand meditatively rubbed his aristocratic nose. His nose was his pride and care, and he watched it with great anxiety to see that the port that he drank with great regularity did not color it. So far he had been successful.

"In my opinion," said Parks, the younger, "it is a case of revenge on the late earl. He was wrapped up in his son, and must have done the man who stole that child some injury at some time. This man knew how to hurt him most, and did it. I think that a sufficient reward might change the state of affairs, perhaps."

"Possibly; we can at least try the effect of it. The property can easily stand the amount of ten thousand pounds, if it would make any difference."

"Very well, let us make it ten thousand and see what it will do."

Having decided upon this, the necessary instructions were given to the clerks, and the accustomed calm reigned in the office.

"See here, Bobs, I cannot have this go on any longer."

"What, sir?"

"Why, Mr. Elliot sends for you, and consults you, he talks plans to you, he talks of you to me. If it is to continue we had better part. I will not have one of my draftsmen influencing my clients."

"I have not influenced Mr. Elliot, Mr. Vanbrugh, and never thought of doing so. He has been to me, it is true, but I think only from personal interest. I certainly never had any idea such as you appear to have, of trying to supersede you. My drawings of this house are satisfactory, are they not?"

"Satisfactory? Of course, they are; the finest designs of the kind ever turned out in this country, but you are receiving more attention from Mr. Elliot than as a subordinate you should, and I will not tolerate it."

"What am I to do, sir?"

"Do? Do nothing. Tell Mr. Elliot that you are not responsible for these drawings, or rather designs, and that you are only carrying out the ideas of the head of the firm."

"'That would not be the truth, Mr. Vanbrugh.'

"What of it? You are my draftsman, and the drawings bear my name. If you cannot do as I wish, as I said before, we better part."

"Very well, sir, I am ready to go now."

At this moment Mr. Elliot walked into the office.

"Hello! What's this. What did I hear about you two parting? What does it mean, Morgan? Answer me at once?"

"It simply means, Mr. Elliot, that Mr. Vanbrugh unjustly accuses me of taking credit for these drawings which I have made, and not being willing to admit that he made the suggestions. He accuses me of influencing you, and says that you consult me instead of him."

"Well, if I do?"

"He says that if that is the case and I am not willing to admit that I got all my ideas from him, that we had better part."

"Ah, indeed! Mr. Vanbrugh, what are these plans worth?"

"I should say $5,000."

"Give me a pen. There is the $5,000; now let me have the plans. These are mine to do as I choose with, I understand?"

"Yes, they are yours," said Vanbrugh, sullenly.

"Very well. Now, Morgan, get your hat and coat and come with me. You shall build, overlook and finish the house, for I know that you made the designs, and am not afraid to trust you to carry them out for me to completion. Mr. Vanbrugh, good morning. Come, Morgan, we must be going."

The door closed on them, and Vanbrugh brought his fist down on the table with a vicious thud. His jealousy had made him overreach himself.

CHAPTER XXIV.

"You saw Mr. Van Nostrand, did you, Morgan? on the whole I think I shall have to call you Bobs, as it seems to suit you much better."

"Yes, Mr. Elliot, and he says that he should not think of standing in the way of my advancement, but that he simply wants me to promise not to settle in Chicago while he is alive."

"I should expect that, and after all that he has done for you I do not think that you should go contrary to his wishes. You can go out with me, attend to this work and return."

"Very well, sir; I am ready whenever you are."

"Very good; we will start to-morrow, for you should get to work at once, I think."

The following day the two men were speeding on their journey westward. Bobs chatted with Mr. Elliot for a time, but soon lapsed into silence, as he had that strange sensation that one has when being watched. He moved uneasily once or twice, and then finally swung his seat around and looked down the car.

He saw no one that he knew, nor did any one appear to be watching or even noticing him. Half way down the opposite side of the car there was a well dressed, distinguished looking man, whose eyes had been resting on him, but who turned away as the chair swung around.

"What is the matter, Bobs?" asked Mr. Elliot kindly. "You seem uneasy."

"I do not know, sir," was the reply. "I felt that I was being watched by someone, but for the life of me I cannot imagine by whom."

"Imagination, my boy, that is all. You are tired and excited, but soon you will have a good rest, and then you will be as good as now. You are too young to have fancies."

"It was no fancy, Mr. Elliot. There was someone looking at me intently. Some one who knows me, though I do not know them."

"How do you know?"

"I cannot tell you, but I felt it as distinctly as though I could see them."

"I will keep an eye out, Bobs, and perhaps I can catch someone looking at you."

The conversation had been carried on in low tones so that no one could hear them. Most of the passengers were women, and Mr. Elliot could not, but think that some of them might be looking at Bobs just for the pleasure of seeing a handsome, well-made young chap in perfect physical health.

Bobs would have pleased any female eye, but Mr. Elliot did not think it necessary to tell him so. He respected the young fellow's feeling after all that he had been through and determined to keep a watch for himself.

If the lad had been kidknapped once, he argued, it might happen again, but not if he could help it. There must have been some very good reason for carrying him off and attempting to keep him, but it was a mystery which he had no means of solving. He therefore decided that the next thing to do was to prevent a repetition.

In spite of Bobs' sensations the train ran swiftly into Chicago, and soon Mr. Elliot and Bobs were at the house of the former.

(To be Continued.)

North Carolina Sentiment.

Referring to an actual occurrence on the streets of its city, the Wilmington Messenger says:

When an alderman of a city gets drunk and behaves so disorderly upon the streets that he has to be arrested and hauled to the police station in the black maria it is about time for him to hand in his resignation.

We stand corrected. The Durham Herald says:

The Richmond Times-Dispatch is wrong; we are not after those monuments. In this life town they would be in the way.

The Asheville Citizen is reasonably happy. It says:

To-day Congress passes into history, the Legislature is on the eve of adjournment and every Republican from North Carolina in both branches of Congress retires to be succeeded by Democrats. Surely there is much cause for rejoicing in a day that brings so many good things!

The Charlotte News says:

The best thing, perhaps, that can be said about the temperance sentiment in this State is that it is growing not so much rapidly and radically as it is steadily and surely. When reforms are accomplished step by step and without revolution they are more healthy and are less likely to relapse.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON FOR MARCH 8, 1903.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

SUBJECT: "Paul at Ephesus." Acts xix, 12-20.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified."—Acts xix, 17.

By Rev. J. E. Gilbert, D. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

PROLONGED.—Paul did not leave Ephesus hastily. He remained two whole years, perhaps longer (Acts xix:10), seeking to confirm the converts and to win others to the Christian faith. At first he preached in the Jewish synagogue, the most natural and accessible place where he could meet his own countrymen. After three months he went into the school of Tyrannus, a Greek teacher of philosophy and rhetoric. This prolonged ministry brought Christianity into great prominence. Its doctrines were in direct conflict with the prevailing sin and narrow bigotry. And while he obtained large following and great popularity, he at the same time, as is common when a new cause seeks public favor, encountered much difficulty. Some opposed directly and sought to bring him and his teachings into contempt, jealous of his success. Others, a curious and unprincipled class, while they refused to become disciples, hoped to find profit by fraudulently copying some of Paul's methods. But even this was turned to good account.

EXORCISED.—(Verse 13). It was the common belief of the Jews of that day that evil spirits might possess and control men, and by various arts these might be exorcised or rejected. David, by playing on a harp, cast out the evil spirit that troubled Saul (1 Sam., xvi:23) Our Lord cast out devils (Matt., viii:16), and bestowed upon His Apostles power to do the same (Matt., x:8), which power was exercised by believers after His ascension (Acts xvi:18). But many Jews who took up this practice did so for purposes of gain only and sunk to the lower level of the superstitious rites of the heathen. They were ready to use any device that seemed to promise results. These men, called vagabonds or worthless fellows in our lesson, witnessed the miracles wrought by Paul (verse 11), and concluded that there was a power which might be invoked by them in their wicked business. Their custom was to call over the afflicted the name of Jesus and say to the spirit: "We adjure you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preacheth."

OFFICIAL.—(Verse 14.) This bold and blasphemous attempt to pervert and prostitute the power of the Gospel to mercenery ends, beginning with a low and sordid class, was not confined to them. It is remarkable that unworthy practices are frequently taken up and indulged by those who might, because of their position know better. It is in this way that evil spreads in the world. Scova, chief of the priests, a man prominent in Ephesus, had seven sons, therefore, all in the priesthood. The number was supposed to indicate special wisdom and sanctity, according to a tradition that had come down from centuries, borrowed doubtless from the heathen. These sons all adopted this method of exorcism Probably they hoped to add to the honors and emoluments that came to them. They were willing to lend their official name and influence to support a practice that could bring nothing but loss to Judaism and Christianity, and tend to prolong the abominations that afflicted society.

REBUKED.—(Verse 15.) What was done to the vagabonds who began this procedure is not related. But the official practice met with a notable rebuke and that in a way to afford most wholesome instruction. Paul wisely let all the parties alone. There is no evidence that he preached against them as many ministers in our day would do. He probably acted upon the principle enunciated by Gamaliel (Acts, v:38), before the council. In one instance the evil spirit who had been adjured answered, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are ye?" This was a plain recognition of the Master and his worthy servant, who had power over spirits, a power that could not be denied or resisted. The testimony was immensely valuable at that time when the cause of Christ was pleaded by the apostle. All through the realms of darkness honor was bestowed upon the mighty Lord. But the sentence contained a contemptuous rejection of these sons who presumed to attempt what they had no right to do. Who are ye? So insignificant as spiritual forces as to be unknown, as not to be obeyed or feared. Who are ye? Presumptuous imposters, using a name which ought not to be pronounced, save with reverence, and assuming authority that is rejected.

ATTACKED.—(Verse 16.) The evil spirit was irritated. Having repelled the assumptions of Scova's sons he attacked them. The unfortunate man, who was under the demon's power, whom they attempted to liberate, became the fierce instrument to execute deserved chastisement. He leaped on the exorcists with all the hate and strength that belong to those who are moved by evil. The onset was terrific, and the men were overpowered. Wounded, they disengaged themselves and fled from the house leaving their outer garments, and styled, therefore, naked. This was a remarkable occurrence—an evil spirit offended by the doings of evil persons. The offense was not in the evil disposition, but in the method. When men who are the servants of sin attempt to overthrow sin they are hypocrites who deserve to be despised. (Luke, xi:44.) Satan could not recognize those who, while possessing his character, nevertheless attempted to overthrow his kingdom. They who do diabolical work must adopt diabolical ways, while they who do Christ's work must adopt Christ's ways. Powerless for good are they who reverse the order.

MAGNIFIED.—(Verse 17.) Intelligence of the attack upon Sceva's sons spread rapidly from lip to lip and from house to house until all Ephesus heard it, Jews and Greeks alike. The details must have been rehearsed many times to eager groups of listeners, and the whole affair, discussed in all its aspects, produced a widespread and profound impression. Gradually a strange fear settled down upon the inhabitants, who might have thought at first that this was only a beginning of an outbreak from the spiritual world to be followed by others, involving the life and peace of all. A superstitious people might easily imagine that many evils would follow, even beyond the power of the imagination to describe. (Luke 1: 65.) But shortly this feeling of impending trouble passed away as men discovered the significance of what had occurred. It became apparent that the confession of the spirit and his treatment of the exorcists showed the excellence of the gospel, and the name of Jesus invoked irreverently was magnified.

CONFESSED—(Verse 18.) There followed a time of cleansing in the church. Some who had embraced Christianity, called therefore believers, a title commonly employed in the New Testament to designate disciples (Acts v: 14), had up to this time clung to some of the black arts practiced by the heathen. It was not to be expected that men would immediately abandon all the ways which because of associations seemed to be agreeable and profitable. (Deut. xviii: 9-12.) This was a source of annoyance and spiritual loss in all the congregations established by the apostles, as is apparent in their epistles. (1 Cor. v: 1.) So here, in Ephesus were those who secretly indulged what before belonged to the old life. But this incident brought the whole subject to the attention of the church in new light. And many came voluntarily forward and confessed their wrong doing, of which they were now convinced, exposed their own deeds, which they did not longer desire to hide, and promised amendment of life. It was a free, frank and complete abandonment of that which was manifestly wrong.

BURNED—(Verse 19.) Nor did the good work stop here. The very men who had made a business of exorcising spirits were made to see the error of their ways. That business had become extensive and lucrative. It had been outlined and taught in literature, so that men might learn it and become professionals. It occupied the place now filled by the minister and the physician, because it involved the interests of both body and soul. But the failure of Sceva's sons and the triumph of the evil spirit convinced all that this occupation was unworthy. Hence leaders in it, influential men in Ephesus, came forward with their books which they burned in the presence of the populace. This destruction of the very sources from which a knowledge of the art might be obtained was the highest possible proof that the whole matter was in popular contempt. The extent of the destruction as well as the previous extent of the business may be judged by the expense of the books burned, fifty thousand pieces of silver, or ten thousand dollars of American money. Worthless, pernicious stuff was that day committed to the flames.

PREVAILED—(Verse 20.) All this was an exhibition of the power of God's word of truth against error. Note the stages in the progress: 1. The evil spirit rejected the hypocritical son of a priest and acknowledged the worth of Jesus and Paul. 2. In indignation and wrath the blasphemous man was driven from the house in which he had attempted his unholy art. 3. This fact was reported by the people who knew of it until the town was deeply stirred at the strange occurrence. 4. Gradually the public thought turned toward Christ who had been preached and vindicated. 5. Those in the church who clung to some of their old courses of life were purged of their sins and stood forth clean men in the community. 6. The very men who had led in this nefarious business, convinced of its evil, destroyed the volumes in which the art was recorded. So in this way the Word prevailed. There are many ways by which God works out his designs. In this instance, a method most peculiar, but none the less effective, is employed to the glory of His name and the advancement of His cause.

The Man ABOUT TOWN

DAILY CALENDAR, MARCH 7.

1614—Sir Walter Raleigh discovers Richmond Gem Cigarettes.

1973—George Guvinator sent us a case of bock beer.

2046—The Sultan of Turkey gave Uncle Sam another ninety-day note.

* * *

For half a century we have prided ourself upon the beautiful potry we write.

Several hundred young ladies whom we know and loved have now locked up in their desks sweet verses that we have written to them in ardent moments, when we dwelt upon the ethereal and floated about among the stars.

What we have written in verse would have filled many volumes had any one ever had the nerve to fill them.

Therefore, we feel called upon to enter a protest.

We feel that we can write a better hand than a Chinaman, or even an Egyptian.

We think we can make ourself clear enough to the average citizen.

Consequently, when we write a beautiful piece of potry and say that Judge Campbell mopped his brow we do not think it is up to the intelligent compositor to put it "mopped his hair."

"Hair" don't rhyme with "brow," and we don'tn even know whether Judge Campbell wears any hair or not.

And then, when we say the "tears" ran down, we don't think we mean the "team" ran down. Maud Muller's face would have to be very broad to have a team run down it.

We think we will have to employ a blonde typewriter to write our stuff.

* * *

We knew it all the time.

When Eddie Leonard, as a raw recruit to the professional stage, appeared in our midst five years ago, we saw there was something in him, and we rooted hard.

We watched him climb up the ladder of fame, round by round. He got some hard raps every now and then, but he was like a rubber ball, the harder he fell down, the higher he bounced.

He used to walk to Manchester across the Tree Bridge because he didn't have the price of a street car fare, but he kept a stiff upper lip, and now he goes across the bridge behind a fast horse and wears a plug hat.

Talent always tells, and perseverance gets there.

So we feel real proud when we know that our protege, Eddie Leonard, is now a leading feature with the leading minstrel company of the country—Primrose & Dockstader.

We saw him when he was here, and we saw a lot of his friends see him, and we enjoyed a little spread tendered him by his old schoolmate, Mr. Jim Munn, and Mrs. Jim Munn, and Mr. Jeff. Berry, at Rueger's.

Eddie has all the good wishes we can give him.

* * *

We feel relieved that Congress has come to a close, for it took up our time a great deal keeping up with what was doing in Washington.

Our subscription to the Congressional Record has also expired, and now we feel that we may devote some of our attention to the doings of Colonel Joe Button's crowd, and other things of which we know little.

We may also have a little more time to gaze into the face of the Brown-Eyed Girl, and we hope the Cemetery Committee will hurry up and meet again.

* * *

It was not the fault of some of our friends that we are now able to sit up and eat our rations.

For we were right in between Captain Lipscomb and Mr. French when the bombardment began, and if it hadn't been for the forethought of Mr. Wakefield we might have been a subject for an inquest by Dr. Brodnax, for the lamps sat dangerously near us on the table.

We think we must have been destined for something great, for we have had a heap of narrow escapes.

HARRY TUCKER.