

# AMBITION TALKS

BY HARLAN READ



## The Recluse Is Not Useful

Speculation, philosophy and mountain-peak observations are splendid developers of thought—but thought, until it culminates in action, generates no power.

The hermits lived away from mankind to devote their minds to heavenly contemplation. They evolved into what they started out to become—useless beings; powerless, because power is action.

The long-haired, gray-bearded solitary cannot love people, because he does not understand them.

He cannot mold what he does not touch; and hence his learning has no effect upon the world, for effects and results are caused by only by contact.

To be contented it is first necessary to be useful; and to be useful is impossible to the anchorite.

Progress depends upon the ability and willingness of those who know, to express what is within by passing it on to those who do not know. The world's saviors are its teachers; and every man who does not teach others is a terminus. His knowledge dies with him and Charon rows him across the river alone—unwept, unhonored and unsung.

Higher education misses its aim whenever it produces a recluse, for a recluse is the only man who teaches the world nothing. He is the eternal mollusc, the mental parasite who takes all and gives nothing. Contentment flies from him for service is the only joy.

## LOVERS' CORNER

Conducted by  
Uncle Donald

"All the world loves a lover."

Address all communications to Uncle Donald, care The Echo, Leavenworth, Wn. Sign your initials, or any fictitious name, which alone will be published in replying through this column. Your letter must, however, be accompanied by your name and address, which will in no case be revealed, and which will be known to no one in this office. Letters received up to Thursday night of any one week will be forwarded to Uncle Donald unopened, and will be answered in the Echo the following week.

Dear People, I am a giver of advice—good advice, I hope—but I am not an advertising medium, nor yet a compounder of cures. Listen to this:

"Dear Uncle Donald—  
"What will remove freckles?  
"Chicken."

Chicken, whatever my private opinion, I do not attempt to inform the public whether a correspondent is sincere in a request for advice or merely seeks amusement at the expense of this column; therefore I remain silent upon that point in your case. Let me say, however, that I am not a beauty doctor or a complexion specialist, and though it grieves me to make the admission, must confess that I cannot help you.

"Dear Uncle Donald,  
"I have been keeping company with a girl for about three months, I haven't went with any other girls and expected her to do the same, as she told me she never went with anybody else. There was a dance and I was not home and she went with two other girls but went home went home with a fellow. She told me about it herself, and said she was going home with the other girls but they both got fellows and so when one wanted to take her home she let him. Do you think she cares anything for me for if she did would she do that? Do you think I ought to go with her any more?  
"Yours Truly  
"Charlie."

Charlie, your letter is interesting. For three months you have devoted yourself to this young lady, and sought the company of no other girl, and you "expected her to do the same." Your phraseology is a trifle ambiguous, but I believe that I grasp your meaning. And now she, during your absence, attended a dance in company with certain other young ladies, expecting them to see her safely home again. Being, then, as you tell me, subsequently deserted by her girl companions, she permitted herself to be escorted to her home by some young man who was gentleman enough to do so. And as soon as you were home again she came of her own accord and told you all about it. Terrible thing, now, wasn't it? Charlie, about two years ago a young chap came to me in person and laid before me almost exactly the same list of circumstances that you have named in your letter; and he stormed about not a little, and set his hat upon the back of his head and delivered himself of numerous sentiments to the effect

that if a girl could not be trusted to attend one dance without "hooking up with another fellow" he was inclined to have very little faith in her constancy. Having coaxed the young man down from the heights to which he had worked himself, I gave him the same sort of advice as I am going to give to you.

You, Charlie, are like a lot of young fellows of the present day. You are attracted to some girl, who does not repulse your advances. You do not know your own mind well enough as yet to speak of marriage, which is as it should be. You are constant to the extent that if there is a place of amusement to attend or any excuse for an evening's outing, she is the one whom you invite to accompany you, and you never neglect her to go with some one else. She reciprocates in kind by refusing all other invitations which may come her way, and giving you at all times the preference, which is fair, and all that you could reasonably ask. But you expect more than that. You fancy that she must, like the heroine of an old fashioned novel, tremble with delight at the sound of your approaching footsteps, and droop like a flower when the sun has set if you are absent for more than a day. You cannot see, in this particular case, how she could find any desire to mingle in merry company when you were not there, and to permit herself to be escorted home by another person of masculine persuasion was but a revelation of her appalling fickleness and utter irresponsibility.

Pause long enough in your condemnation to consider that there has been nothing in your relation with her to give you any claims upon her which she has not fulfilled. She has favored you with a degree of fidelity which many another young man would give much to receive at the hands of the girl of his choice. In the present case she attended a dance in your absence, to which you have no right to object—you don't own her, you know—and, being left to either go home alone or accept masculine protection, chose what doubtless was—since you speak no word against the character of her escort—the safer course.

You ask if she cares for you. If she did not, she would not have come to you of herself, and told you of the dance, and all that followed, in the way she did. She cares for you, at the least, as much as you deserve.

You ask again if you should continue going with her. So far as anything that she has done there is no reason why you should not; concerning your own conduct in the matter I am not so certain. If you can and will master the unreasoning jealousy which has possession of you just now, all should be well with you both; otherwise it were better for her if you separate yourself from her.

Returning to the subject of the young man whom I mentioned, he overcame his unduly jealous tendencies more successfully than I had anticipated. I heard from him some two weeks ago; they are married, and living verp happily together in California.

Now, dear nephews and nieces, I must leave you for another week. Don't be afraid to come to me; write and tell

me all your troubles, and if you have no troubles, write and get acquainted. Ever Faithfully Yours,  
UNCLE DONALD.

## Pikes Peak Not the Highest

What is the highest mountain in Colorado? "Pikes Peak," nineteen persons out of twenty will answer, and incorrectly. The twentieth may know that the two highest mountains in the State are Mount Massive and Mount Elbert, both in Lake County, in the Leadville District. The altitude of each of these mountains, according to the United States Geological Survey, is 14,402 feet above sea level. The height of Pike's Peak is 14,108 feet. Moreover, there are fifty or sixty other peaks in Colorado approximately as high—over 14,000 feet. The lowest point in Colorado is 3,350 feet above sea level. Of all the States Colorado has the highest average altitude, estimated by the Geological Survey at 6,800 feet.

Although not the highest mountain, Pikes Peak is probably the best known peak in the United States. There was at one time a Weather Bureau station on its summit, and it now has a substantial railway station at the terminus of the highest railway line in North America. It can also be reached by an excellent wagon road and trail which connect the summit with Colorado Springs.

## Report of Secretary of State

In his biennial report now being prepared, I. M. Howell, Secretary of State, shows that his office collected for the years ending September 30, 1912, the sum of \$471,234, as against collections totaling \$448,490 in the two years ending in 1910. The items showing greatest increases were those covering the issuance of automobile licenses. The total increase was \$42,063, and that for auto licenses alone was \$28,178 of this. Filing fees of candidates increased \$4284, license fees of corporations increased \$2837. From October 1, 1904, to Sept. 30, 1906, the total receipts of the office were but \$181,903, and from that date to September, 1908, the collections netted \$359,887.

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