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OUR READER SAYS "WHAT GOOD?"

Many of our readers have addressed letters to us on many subjects. The following, on the subject of capital punishment, is so evidently earnest and sincere that it seems well worth printing in this column. You will do well to read it and see if you agree:

They are trying a man in New York for killing another man. Suppose he is convicted. Suppose the death sentence is pronounced, and that the state, which says that it is illegal for one man to kill, again asserts that it is perfectly legal for certain other men to kill—that is, itself. Suppose the execution took place this morning, that even before you saw the light coming in at the window this wretched human being had been led along the gray corridors, strapped into the state's murder-chair and stunned by an electric blow as remorselessly as if they had struck him in the head with an ax. It's all over now. The man is dead.

What has it accomplished? Is the world any better? Is society uplifted? Has the state been purified? Has it made any difference at all? Will it deter you from killing because you have seen the terrible power of the state? This man knew all that. He knew that the punishment for death was death—but he killed his man.

Is it only vengeance? Is it only the hatred and anger of the state towards its weak citizen? "Whoso sheddeth man's blood—" is that the answer? That is only a relic of barbaric days. Vengeance is the dethronement of reason.

The principle underlying the punishment of man by man has been recognized by the thinkers of every age. Even Plato wrote: "Everyone who undergoes punishment ought either to be made better thereby and profit by it, or serve as an example to the rest of mankind, that others, seeing the suffering he endures, may be brought by fear to amendment of life."

"Good for Plato," says someone. "That's it. We have to kill criminals so as to deter other criminals." But does it deter? Ask any honest criminologist. He will tell you that he isn't sure that it does deter. He will tell you that there are trustworthy statistics on record which show where an abolition of the death penalty has been followed by a decrease in crime.

Holland abandoned legal murder in 1870, Roumania and Portugal in 1864. Belgium practically abolished it in 1863. The Swiss cantons have been without it since 1874. Today France has declared against it. In 1890 Italy abandoned it, and since that time crimes of violence have decreased in number in Italy. The little republic of San Marino abolished the death penalty in 1848, and homicides have steadily decreased ever since. Several of our own states have stricken the death penalty from their codes. If you do not know what states these are, an epidemic of murder can scarcely have followed their legal action. As a matter of fact, crime has lessened.

The death penalty is almost a farce as it is. In the 20 years previous to 1903 there were 129,464 homicides in the United States, and but 2,611 murderers were executed—that is, about 1 out of every 50.

The frenzy that makes a man kill is as much the result of a mental disorder as the delirium which seizes him in a fever. "Blood and flame," cries one notable thinker, "have ever proved incapable against that impalpable thing—a condition of mind."

Recall all the legal murders that you know. These men are dead. They paid the price which you and other men have fixed. They killed their man, and then we killed them. Well? What good has it done?

THE EXCLUSIVE WOMAN By Jessie M. Paxton. Illustration of a woman in a car.

"Women," observes the Rev. W. A. Bartlett, of Chicago, "are more exclusive than men. They form 'clans' and gaze askance at the newcomer who does not belong to their set." All of which is true. And the Chicago divine might have added the additional truth that women are also narrower than men, less generous toward human faults and failings, and prone to view strangers with suspicion. It is the exceptional woman who will take a stranger on trust and think no evil. The Brotherhood of Man may some day be realized, but the Sisterhood of Woman will lag behind the millennium. Women are not wholly to blame for their petty child's play of belonging to a specific circle and looking down on the rest of creation. Centuries of ignorance and false standards of life are welded into this horrible called "exclusiveness." It is fostered by silly pride and bolstered by empty heads, and finally it becomes a fetish to the woman and a matter of great envy to her neighbors. To be "exclusive" is to miss the best in life, to limit one's powers of enjoyment, to bar out knowledge, to live in a hothouse. Your true democratic eye takes in the full sweep of the horizon; it is not fixed on a knot hole in the wall.

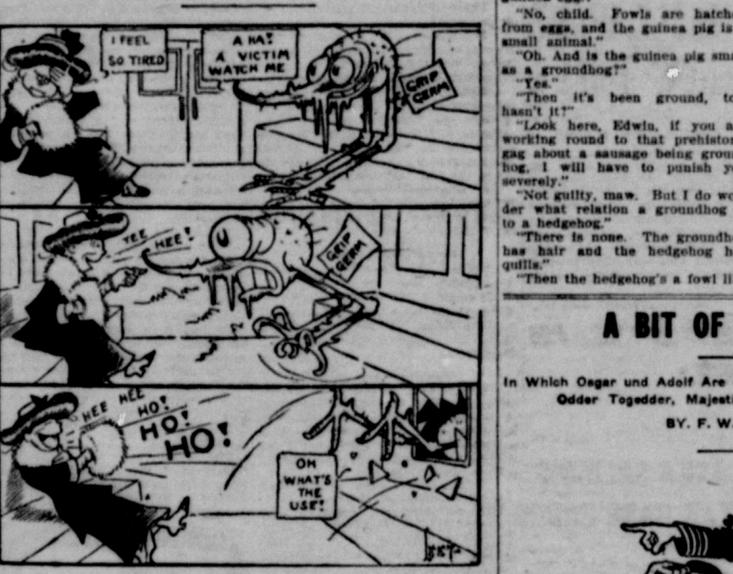
GETTING HIRAM MARRIED--NO. 10



STAR DUST BY JOSH

A Word From Josh Wise. 'It's a poor rule that don't work your way.' Now is the time of year up north when reigns the festive blizzard. On the ranch. He would start running around the rain-barrel very slowly and would increase his speed until he was finally running so fast that about every third lap he had to jump over himself. He clinched the sale.—Judge.

THE LAUGHING LASS VS. THE GRIP GERM



The giggly girl is singularly immune from the grippe, says Dr. Sheldon Leavitt of Chicago. He explains it by saying persons in high spirits have the system in best tone to resist disease. Hence the girl who just can't help laughing has the grippe "faded."

WHEN TETRAZZINI SANG FOR \$5 A WEEK



GETS BUSINESS ON BOGUS BADGE

Representing himself to be authorized by the Humane society, a horse dentist has been doing a rushing business in filling horses' teeth at the public market.

This is the complaint of F. A. Neff, veterinary surgeon, against an unknown stranger who vaulted into the field a few days ago with a badge which he declares to have been issued by the Humane society.

This badge has been the means of many equine dental fees of \$2 and \$4 each. Officer Vaupell, of the Humane society, says no such badge has been issued, and that if any person represents that it has been, he is practicing a fraud.



A fake iss der offspring of infention. Der dog iss man's beast fren. Bromises was like pie crust, hart to lift upon. Dure iss always room at der top. Der iss why der attig iss full of chum.

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



OPINIONS OF BILL THE BRUTE

'Well, wot 'ell yuh tink uh Jim Corbett an' his wide idee 'bout runnin' de fight game like dey run baseball, wit a national comish,' demanded Bill the Brute. 'I had not heard of the pugilist-actor's plan,' replied Champagne Charlie. 'What is it?'

PARK BOARD PLANS FOR ROCK SUPPLY

To provide rock for the boulevards and roadways of the exposition grounds it has been suggested that the Seattle park board install a rock crusher at the quarries on Whidby and the state employ convicts for making the crushed rock.

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INQUISITIVE EDWIN BY F. W. Schaefer

'Tell me, maw.' 'Tell you what, Edwin?' 'Is a guinea pig hatched from a guinea egg?' 'No, child. Fowls are hatched from eggs, and the guinea pig is a small animal.'

A BIT OF VAUDEVILLE BY F. W. SCHAEFER.

In Which Osgar und Adolf Are on a Battleship Cruise, Each Mit der Odder Togedder, Majestically Rounding der Horn. 'Lant ahoy, Adolf! Lant ahoy!' 'Lant oi yoi, Osgar! Lant oi yoi! Vere avay iss id?' 'On der port bow, you lubber.'