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**OBSERVATIONS.****A Missouri Jury.**

Sometimes a little boy bullies his older brother or a bigger boy, knowing that the older and stronger one's chivalry will prevent him from retaliating. The right is not always on the side of the weak, though when strangers see a big boy slap a little one they immediately conclude that the big one is a bully. Some women take advantage of their sex to harry the men of their family to drink or into personal violence. It is very brutal to strike a woman and the ingenious torture to which the man may have been subjected for years before the outbreak will never be known, so the world condemns. Disappointed lovers shoot their sweethearts, according to the newspapers, every day. Afterwards they either kill themselves or are condemned to death by a just jury. There cannot be one law for man and another for woman. It is as heinous a crime for a woman to shoot a man as it is for a man to shoot a woman. In cases where a man has betrayed a woman and deserted her, juries have practically added an exception to the statute which forbids murder, making it read that the woman or her father or brother may shoot her betrayer without fear of the law. Now murder is murder and to kill another is only justified as a means of protecting life. Where the fault lies between two who have transgressed is beyond human insight. Most women of twenty are safeguarded by instinct and experience of the world, and if they fall a prey to passion they are equally to blame. Except in case of tragedy, like the Kennedy affair in Kansas City, the woman bears most of the disgrace for a mutual folly. But

where there is killing, as in the Kennedy case, sympathy, unreasonable and prejudiced, is immediately extended to the woman in the case. Considering this fixed and universal habit it is remarkable that a jury in Missouri should sentence a woman to ten years' imprisonment for shooting a man in cold blood. Lulu Prince Kennedy who shot her husband because he would not live with her, and then kicked the dead man's head, was justly convicted of the crime and sentenced to ten years imprisonment in the penitentiary by a Missouri jury. Missourians still profess to believe in the code duello and the old fashioned Missouriian clings to the hyper-chivalrous talk and practice of a hundred years ago. It is therefore remarkable and very gratifying to the rest of the United States that a cold-blooded murderess should have received a sentence of ten years by a Missouri jury. The real old Missouriian holds to southern prejudices and traditional southern habits more tenaciously than the man from Georgia, possibly because he is in direct contact with the north and feels that he must protect his southern traditions from assimilation. Be that as it may the old-fashioned Missouriian is a southerner of southerners and has resisted northern influences successfully.

If Mrs. Kennedy had not been punished for her brutal crime, any young woman who desires to revenge herself upon a man who has snubbed her, would not have been restrained by the law prohibiting murder and threatening the death penalty. The punishment of ten years in the penitentiary is inadequate to her brutal crime for which she has exhibited no repentance. But that she is punished at all is a triumph of justice which offers no special dispensation to women for killing men given to the jilting habit. The sentence is largely the result of the impartial judge's rulings. He kept out irrelevant matter and insisted that the jury decide the case on its merits uninfluenced by hearsay and gossip. His charge to the jury was a clearing away of rubbishy nonsense and it inspired them to call murder murder, even when the prisoner at the bar was a woman.

**Facility.**

The investigation of the Manila subsistence accounts has implicated Lieutenant Richard Townley, who for a number of years was a resident of Lincoln. Graduated at Annapolis, Lieutenant Townley served for a few years in the navy. He was afflicted with rheumatism, and applied for and received a discharge on half pay. He led an inactive life after his retirement, and although not vicious was peculiarly susceptible on account of his enforced idleness to the wiles and blandishments which are the devil's favorite temptation for graceful, idle, brilliant men.

It was easy for Dick Townley to

accomplish the tasks set him at school. Half of his time he was idle because the tasks were graded to the ability of the average child, and he had a mind that leaped where others climbed. When he left school his character and his mind lacked the toughness of fibre only to be acquired, however fine the intellect, by strenuous endeavor. Life is a struggle, and those who go into training early and keep in training all their lives are those who succeed. Mr. Townley's duller classmates all rank him now. They are captains, majors and generals, while he is on the point of being dishonorably discharged.

At the beginning of the Cuban war, Mr. Townley exerted himself to obtain another commission in the regular army. He was confronted by unexpected difficulties, and if it had not been for the courage and persistency of Mrs. Townley, doubtless he would not have succeeded. Her energy and persistence finally won. Another commission was issued to him and he was assigned to the commissary department at Manila. It is not claimed that the system of defrauding the government by disposing of commissary stores was originated in Manila by Lieutenant Townley but that he carried on the frauds already inaugurated. Genuinely eager to be of service to his country, of brilliant parts, skillful and successful in all sports and games, a good fellow, and a favorite with men and women, poor Townley's career is ended before his time. It was so easy for him to do and to learn that the discipline of life has never had an opportunity to toughen him. Not delighting in scholarly pursuits, and not having lost his youthful zest in the pleasures of life, enervated by years of idleness out of service, Mr. Townley was an easy, unconscious victim of the gaming habits so prevalent in Manila. Of the many Nebraska friends of this graceful, accomplished man, there is not one who does not regret his punishment and the circumstances which have made it necessary. He, himself, never spared pains or trouble to serve a friend, and it was partly on this account, coupled with his unwillingness to make trouble and to pose as an extra-virtuous officer, that he agreed to be a party to a scheme already in operation when he arrived in Manila. The trouble began when he was born with a happy-go-lucky temperament and little fibre to resist temptation; but the war department cannot take cognizance of extenuating circumstances antedating enlistment.

To apprehend slowly and by force of effort, to cultivate the mind by main strength is the lot of man. Genius does not have to work its way and that is why so many geniuses fail of real service to their generation. The child who learns too easily is not to be congratulated, neither are his parents. On account of his very facility he will need extra at-

tention from his teachers and parents, and for this very facility he will not get it. Some gifted children have clearer spiritual insight, and some are girls not exposed to the same temptations that appeal to the poor, bright, little boys. The overwhelming majority of dull pupils who attain a prominence in business life that they never reached in school, and the comparative obscurity of the bright boys in the world of business, has not ceased to surprise both the parents of those who develop slowly as well as the parents of the precocious children. The latter spend half of their school days waiting for the other little children to catch up with them, and in the meantime Satan is suggesting occupation for their spare moments. Whereas school has developed in the dull boy courage, patience, and a sure confidence in the final triumph of persistent effort, the clever boy thinks he has only to turn his attention to a project to accomplish it. His first failure disheartens him, and his life is not a success.

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**The Wise Man's Portion.**

Dreams, although they seem irregular and erratic may be classified into partial order. Considering the number of people in the world and their diversity, there are not enough dreams to go around. There are more men who have had identical dreams than those whose actual experiences coincide. Most of us are thankful to the ready wit which supplies us with the word or the incident we have been groping for. It is perplexing to strive to remember what just eludes the backward reach of our minds. Some dreams recur frequently, yet cannot be remembered in the morning. They torment us through the day, because we have dreamed them so many times that they have made a deep, but not a clear impression upon our minds. If we could remember the details we might be at peace and forget.

"Old Fires and Profitable Ghosts" is a book of short stories by Mr. A. T. Quiller-Couch, whose nom-de-plume is "Q." He has my gratitude, and that of hundreds of other dreamers, for interpreting our wordless, recurring, tantalizing dreams. Like Nebuchadnezzar, though we cannot remember our dream we recognize the true interpretation when it appears in print, and desire to honor the prophet who remembers and interprets it.

When Daniel was a youth and a prisoner of King Nebuchadnezzar who had conquered Judah and its king Jehoiakim, he had already demonstrated his extraordinary powers of divination. King N. ordered his chief eunuch to select four of the most beautiful and unblemished youths from among the Jews, feed them a daily portion of the meat and wine set aside for the king's table, and after three years of this special