

**THE PALATKA NEWS AND ADVERTISER**  
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**RUSSELL & VICKERS.**

Wm. A. RUSSELL, Editor  
**ABSURD ABUSE OF POWER.**

The small calibre physician who constitutes the majority influence on state health boards, and to whom is given autocratic power in quarantine matters, may not be an abomination to the lord but he comes mighty near such to the great body of people so unfortunate as to enter the circle of his jurisdiction.  
The prevalence of yellow fever in New Orleans and Pensacola has furnished many instances of the fool use of this power, probably the most conspicuous example of which is the forcible subjection of all who desire, or are entitled to pass quarantine stations, to a modified application of the Bertillon system of measurements for identifying criminals.

The practice is both grotesque and utterly senseless.  
Here is an example.  
A Palatka gentleman with his family had been spending several weeks in North Carolina. When about to return they procured certificates from the health officer in the town where they were stopping. They then went to Atlanta, where they spent several days. When about to purchase tickets for home the railway agent asked to see their health certificates. After an examination of these papers they were pronounced worthless. He then informed the holders that they would be obliged to see the United States Marine Hospital Surgeon stationed in that city.

This the Palatka travelers did, finding in that official a most gracious and obliging gentleman. But he explained that in order to enter Florida they would be obliged to have identification cards which he was there to furnish. These cards contain the name of the traveler, his age, weight, height, color of eyes and hair and an IMPRESSION OF HIS THUMB, which latter was secured by the applicant's placing his thumb in a small pool of ink and then pressing on a blank space reserved for thumbs on the card. This done the Palatka travelers were equipped for the ride home.

Of course the quarantine officer at the Florida line did not examine these thumb marks with a microscope nor compare them with the original dies in order to see if they were genuine. He simply glanced at the cards and let the travelers pass.  
Atlanta threw open its doors to all yellow fever refugees and hence the necessity for adoption of more stringent quarantine regulations against that city. But if the Florida health office is responsible for the thumb-in-the-ink mark it contains fakirs for which the present administration of Florida can scarce afford to be responsible.

The remedy is to place control of the health department in the hands of broad-minded physicians who can rise above the "Simon says thumbs up" idea. And we have plenty such.

**WONDERS DEVELOPED BY WAR.**

At the convention of army surgeons held in Detroit, Mich., two weeks ago a Japanese surgeon told of accomplishments in his department of the service which shows that the most wonderful part of Japan's war effort is not a story of battles won. It is of a fight on disease such as the world has never before witnessed, and experts at the convention declare that an example has been set that the United States will do well to follow.  
Long before the opening of hostilities the Japs were ready.  
They had discovered that in war disease kills five where bullets kill one, and they were certain that the proportion was extravagant. They established the most wonderful Red Cross system in the world and that body soon had more than 1,200,000 members. They had trained nurses in hundreds, modern supplies for use in care of the sick and wounded in unlimited quantities.  
They studied the germ theory and made war on bacteria the first of all, and they studied serums until their students expected to control dysentery, typhoid, erysipelas and eventually tuberculosis. They wiped out that dread oriental disease, beriberi, by scientific feeding of men. At the same time Japan discarded the fuss and pomp of war, and brass buttons and gold lace and other fooleries became almost unknown.  
What did it all amount to? At the reserve hospital at Hiroshima, up to the close of August in the first year of the war, 6,636 wounded had been received. And at that time but thirty-four had died. In seven trips made by the hospital ship Hakuai Maru 2,406 wounded men were transported and not a case was lost in transit. It is asserted that in the first six months of the war the loss from preventable diseases had been reduced to a fraction of 1 per cent.

In our own Spanish war, in six weeks, bullets killed 268 and disease 3,862. In the French campaign in Madagascar, in 1894, of 15,000 men sent to the front, twenty-nine were

killed in action and 7,000 from preventable disease.  
If war is inevitable, and a thing to be reckoned with, it does seem that men should be killed legitimately, on the field, fighting for a cause, and not destroyed by diseases that so often find birth in the negligence of mankind.  
And the little Japs have taught this lesson to the nations.

**THE REAL STUFF.**

A friend recently told the editor this story:  
"A brother of mine died a few years ago, leaving a young son. My brother was a good fellow, but was never able to accumulate any estate. He frequently borrowed money of me, which I was glad to lend him. He paid it as he could, but always was in debt to me. When he died he owed me between \$300 and \$400.  
Of course, I never expected to get back my money. But I reckoned without the boy, my nephew. He has grown to be a young man. The other day I had a letter from him asking me to name the precise amount his father owed me at the time of the latter's death. He said he intended to pay every cent of it. His salary was but \$45 per month, but he would be able to save enough to pay me in the course of a few years."

Said this friend: "The letter brought tears to my eyes. I did not care for the money. It was the boy's high sense of honor and duty that touched me. I wish I could make the sum less than he owed me, but the boy knows approximately the amount, and I dare not rob him of the satisfaction of paying the whole debt."

That boy is made of the real stuff. He is of the stuff of which heroes and martyrs—nay, of which men are made.  
No law forces the brave young fellow to pay the obligations of the dead save the law of moral duty. He is not impelled by any hope of gain save that of conscience and by no fear of loss save the loss of honor. But he is a man—every inch of him, every pound of him.  
One would rather be the father of such a youth than be the father to a common millionaire. Because the boy has got soul fiber.

State Superintendent of Insurance W. D. Vandiver of Missouri has sent a communication to John A. McCall of the New York Life Insurance Company demanding that the \$48,765 campaign fund contribution be replaced in the treasury of the company, under penalty of revocation of the company's license to transact business in Missouri for failure to comply with the demand. The communication also informs President McCall that the Missouri department of insurance will insist on a new president, vice president and financial committee for the New York Life Insurance Company, just as soon as the directors can possibly affect the reorganization. If all the states would take similar action it is more than likely we would have insurance reform with a vengeance and have it quick.

**He Wanted to Be Sure Before Taking Chances**  
**N**ODD—Come out with me and take my ride in my auto.  
TODD—How long have you and it?  
"Just got it."  
"Had any experience with it?"  
"No."  
"Going to run it yourself?"  
"I am."  
"Can you mend a punctured tire?"  
"No, sir."  
"Wouldn't know the first thing to do?"  
"Not the first thing."  
"Have you studied, read or been given any advice?"  
"No, sir. I tell you I don't know the first thing."  
"How far do you want to go?"  
"Just as far as the thing will go."  
"All right. I'll go with you."  
"What? Why, I didn't dream you'd accept my invitation."  
"Why not?"  
"Why, I didn't suppose you'd care to go out in an auto with a man who doesn't know anything about it."  
"Nonsense! You're just the man."  
"How's that?"  
"Simply because, old chap, that if we break down we'll drop the old machine and get home by trolley, train or car-rage. But if you thought you knew the first thing about it you'd spend the rest of the day trying to fix it up, while I'd have to stay with you and suffer as a matter of course."—Life.

**Notes From Jewelers' Circular.**  
A chateaufort fountain pen makes a pleasing novelty.  
A new flower ring in the form of a daisy has the petals outlined in small diamonds with a pearl in the center.  
In gold scarfpins a horse's head with a lucky horseshoe is among the various designs of a sporting character.  
Among rings that attract attention are those set with a dark stone, as a garnet, dark sapphire, surrounded by pearls or diamonds.  
A handsome new collar is of finest gold ribbon in open diamond shape, spaced with pearls, with a bar of filigree set with pearls crossing each diamond.  
A pleasing trifle for the summer girl is a gold coaching horn mounted as a safety pin, which may be worn at the collar or belt. A whip and lash design is also shown.  
An exclusive design in a new gold chain for a fan or watch is of small fancy disks in openwork with a connecting link of gold between each disk. The very delicate, flat chain is both novel and really beautiful.

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**HOW TO TREAT GOSSIP.**

**Some Suggestions from Old John Graham of the Stock Yards.**

There are two ways of treating gossip about other people, and they're both good ways. One is not to listen to it, and the other is not to repeat it. Then there's young Buck Puddin's wife's way, and that's better than either when you're dealing with some of these old heifers who browse over the range all day, stuffing themselves with gossip about your friends, and then round up at your house to chew the cud and slat-bark some more over you.  
Buck wasn't a bad fellow at heart, for he had the virtue of trying to be good, but occasionally he would walk in slippery places. Wasn't very sure-footed, so he fell down pretty often, and when he fell from a horse it usually cracked his eye. Still, as he used to say when he sat at the bar mirrors during one of his periods of temporary elevation, he paid for what he broke—cash for the mirrors and sweat and blood for his cussedness.

Then one day Buck met the only woman in the world—a mighty nice girl from St. Joe—and she was hesitating over falling in love with him, till the gossips called to tell her that he was a dear, lovely fellow, and wasn't it too bad that he had such horrid habits. That settled it, of course. She married him inside of thirty days, so that she could get right down to the business of reforming him.  
I don't as a usual thing, take much stock in this marrying me to reform them, because a man's always sure of a change when he's married. It's her, while a woman's never really afraid of losing a man till she's got him. When you want to teach a dog new tricks it's all right to show him the biscuit first, but you'll usually get better results by giving it to him after the performance. You see, his wife fooled the whole town and almost all the gossips out of business by keeping Buck straight for a year. She allowed that what he'd been craving all the time was a home and family and that his rare-ups came from not having 'em. Then, like a good reformer, she ordered it went and had twins. Buck thought he owned the town, of course, and that would have been all right if he hadn't included the saloons among his real estate. Had to take his drinks in pairs, too, and naturally, when he got in the habit of going had another look at the new arrivals he thought they were quadruplets.  
Buck straightened right out the next day, went to his wife and told her all about it, and that was the last time he ever had to hang his head and crawl like a dog, for he never took another drink. You see, she didn't reproach him, or nag him—simply said she was mighty proud of the way he'd held on for a year, and that she knew she could trust him now for another ten. Man was made a little lower than the angels, and Buck was no exception. That's the right, but he was made a good while ago, and he hasn't kept very well; but there are a heap of women in this world who are still right in the seraphim class.

Naturally, the story of Buck's final career in the world was told by a thousand-barrel gusher to a drilling outfit that'd been floundering, and they went one at a time to see Mrs. Buck and to tell her all the dreadful details and how sorry they were for her. Mrs. Buck would just sit and list and listen, and the story and hemstitched it, and embroidered it, and stuck fancy rosettes all over it. Then she'd smile one of those sweet baby smiles that women give just before the hair-pulling begins, and say:  
"Law, Mrs. Shackelford—the deacon's wife was the one who was condoling with her at the moment—people will talk about the best of us. Seems as if no one was safe nowadays. Why, they lie about it and you know it ain't true, but only yesterday the report that the deacon had died was right strange how a professor and a deacon got that color in his beak, and while it might be inflammatory veins or whatever he claimed it was, she reckoned that if he'd let some one else tend the alcohol he wouldn't have to take up so much of his stock to leakage and evaporation."

Of course, Mrs. Buck had made up the story about the deacon, because every one knew that he was too mean to drink anything that he could sell, but the time he was had the deacon told Mrs. Shackelford was so busy explaining and defending him that she hadn't any further interest in Buck's case. And each one that called was sent away with a special piece of home-scandal which Mrs. Buck had invented to keep her mind from dwelling on her neighbor's troubles.  
She followed up her system, too, and in the end it got so that women would waste good gossip before they'd go to her with it. For if the pastor's friend that had come from the theatre in St. Louis was causing a scandal she'd thank her for being so sweetly thoughtful, and ask if nothing was sacred enough to be spared by the tongue of slander, though she, for one, didn't believe in the theatre, and then she'd give them those powerful Sunday evening discourses from a volume of Beecher's sermons. And when they'd press her for the name of her informant she'd say: "No, it was a lie—the lady who said that was no one who sat under the dear pastor's word believe it; and they mustn't dignify it by noticing it." As a matter of fact, no one who sat under Doe, Pottle would have believed it, for his sermons weren't good enough to have been cribbed; and Beecher could have heard one of them he would have excommunicated him.  
Buck's wife knew how to show goods. When Buck himself had used up all the cues words in Missouri on his conduct she hid away the old hints and stock of trouble was full, and that if she wanted to get a hold on him she mustn't show him stripes, but something in cheerful checks. Yet when the trouble-hunters looked her up she had a full line of samples of their favorite commodity to show them.  
I simply mention these things in a general way. Seeing would naturally be believing if cross-eyed people were the only ones who saw crooked; and hearing will be believing when deaf people are the only ones who don't hear straight. It's a pretty safe rule, when you hear a heavy yarn about any one, to allow a fair amount for tare, and then to verify your weights.

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**LATE STATE NEWS.**

The Methodist college at Sutherland has 252 students enrolled this year.  
Car loads of green oranges are being shipped to the north from south Florida points.

B. K. Throver, Jr. and C. D. Dennis have leased 21,000 acres in Levy county and will establish a turpentine farm.  
Congressman "Bill" Lamar has sent his personal check for \$100 to Mayor Bliss of Pensacola to be used in stamping out yellow fever in that city.

The Gainesville Lodge of Elks, recently organized, will erect an \$18,000 building in that city, and the Gainesville Sun thinks they are the B. P. O. E. (best people on earth) on account of that fact and other things.  
The state board of control has accepted the plans of Edwards & Walters of Columbus, S. C., for the new State University buildings at Gainesville. The state will ultimately spend \$1,500,000 on these buildings.

The Marion county commissioners have called a local option election to determine whether saloons shall be licensed or prohibited. The election is to be held on November 28th. The saloon is a power in this county and that power will be hard to break.

Capt. Thos. Leek was drowned in the Miami river last week. Capt. Tom was drunk and fell into the water face downward from his skull. When found his head was over water and hanging over the side of the boat.

News from Tallahassee is to the effect that the bond given by the state printer, "assures the people that the state printing will be as well and as promptly done during the next two years as it has been during the past four." What'd ya think 'o that for news?

Nel M. Allred leaves today for Prescott, Arizona, where he goes to spend the winter for the benefit of his health. His host of friends all over the state hope that the change will do him a great deal of good and that he will be entirely restored to health.—Ocala Banner.

While trying to save a child hemmed in by fire at a burning cottage in Ybor City last Friday night Constable Louis G. Colburn's neck came in contact with a live electric light wire and he was instantly killed. Previous to that time he had been warning spectators against these wires which were entangled and lying on the ground by reason of the fire.

"Joe the Turk" is not a turbaned headlonger as his name would seem to imply, but a Salvation Army preacher who is holding the boards at Jacksonville in the interest of the gospel of peace. There seems to be nothing the matter with Joe but his name, and that is a trifle off color for one of his calling.

Sheriff Pennell and Archie Jackson sat on the jail last morning, and when a short distance from the city the dogs jumped an immense cat. After an exciting chase the animal was killed. It was one of the largest caught recently, tipping the beam at forty-six pounds, and measuring the feet from tip to tip.—Gainesville Sun.

Israel J. McCall, ex-clerk of Hamilton county, short in his accounts to the county some \$2,500, and who mysteriously disappeared from Jacksonville two weeks ago, is still missing. His brother offers a reward of \$400 for his location and return. The family still think McCall has been ordered, but as he had some \$1,400 in cash on his person and was in trouble, many think he has "skipped" to avoid further exposure and punishment.

Friday, Nov. 21, has been decided upon as Confederate Veterans' Day at the coming State Fair at Tampa, and one of the most elaborate programs of the entire fifteen days will be arranged in honor of the occasion. The Third Brigade, Florida Confederate Veterans, will hold its annual reunion on this day, and a cordial invitation is extended by that noted brigade to every Confederate veteran, wife, son or daughter in the south to attend.

President Roosevelt will visit Jacksonville on Saturday of next week, Oct. 21st, and will spend a good share of the day in that city. In the evening he will go to St. Augustine where he will address the people in the enclosure of old Fort Marion. The president will spend Sunday quietly at St. Augustine and in the morning will attend one of the city churches, presumably the Memorial Presbyterian. Great preparations are being made in both cities for his reception. While in St. Augustine he will be entertained at the Ponce de Leon Hotel, opened especially for his use.  
Given unlimited power even a physician finds no difficulty in playing the fool. Illustration. The following statement from the Jacksonville health officer: "It makes no difference where business comes from, or when, I reserve the right to fumigate them, and intend to do so. No one dares to receive a shipment of this fruit unless I am notified, otherwise all of them will be condemned." If this man happened to be an ecclesiastic and was given the power, he would fumigate the inmates of every one who failed to kowtow to him and kiss his hand. That kind of an autocrat ought to be impossible in this country. This health officer says there will be no banana business in Jacksonville next year.

From the reports of the passenger and freight agents of Coast Line, Seaboard and other railroads interested in the coming State Fair at Tampa, the attendance of home-seekers from other states will surpass that of any fair heretofore held in the south. Throughout the entire summer and autumn an energetic advertising campaign has been waged in all sections, particularly the northwest, and this will be continued until the fair gates open. So great has been the demand for exhibit space at the fair that the erection of new buildings has become necessary, including another for live stock. About 100 of the finest race horses in Tennessee, the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida will be seen in the great race meet to last nine days.

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