

ON CURRENT TOPICS

(CHAS. LEIDY.)

Is a young fellow named Jiragore,
Fabricates much, prevaricates more:
"But it's all for you,
Ma honey 'T.-U.,"
And that gives him license to hesomemore.

Neat little dandy, this Jiragore;
Dresses like Brummell, only some more;
But not all the glad rags
That are worn by His Jags
Will smother the fact that he liesglore.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity." Therefore will all the
dead bills rise stronger for defeat.

The frightful calendar-carnage of the 1909 session of the
Fla. Leg. should serve as a pointer to lead us out of the
labyrinth of localism. But for local bills, every bill on the
calendar worthy of passage would have been enacted into
law.

It isn't true that, like the Indian, the only good bill is a
dead bill. Several good bills have been passed.

The spectacle of an intelligent majority being prevented
from enacting good laws because a designing minority has
been permitted to make the rules governing a deliberative
body is too much for the patience of rationalism. What is a
majority for if not to govern in a democratic form of govern-
ment? And why will a majority permit itself to be handicap-
ped by a minority? Who is responsible but the majority?

With "Christians" opposing prohibition, anti-gambling and
child-labor laws and non-Christians supporting these bills,
there would seem to be no monopoly of moral principles.

Much of our opinion is formed from our environment. For
instance, Mr. Stokes comes from a community where news-

papers voice the sentiments of the people, and has formed the
opinion that this is the rule. Had Mr. Stokes been represent-
ing Duval, he would have expressed the opinion that news-
papers DO NOT voice the sentiments of the people. It is
much a matter of environment.

The Jacksonville Crimes-Union flies into contortions of
ridicule at the suggestion of the possession of a conscience
by a member of the Legislature.

The Crimes-Union's dealings with men are confined to
those who have their price, and naturally the environment of
that sheet leads it to conclude that every man has his price.
Hence the discredited rag cannot be induced to believe that
there is such an institution as a conscience.

The Lakeland News thinks "any official who can be
bought with a pass is unworthy the place he fills." Yes;
how about the fellow that pinches the confiscated, drasti-
cated railroad for the huldram family--does the magnitude of
his pinch absolve him from unworthiness?

The editorial beneficiaries of the pass are dying hard. But
to some of them the tie-pass is not unknown; and there re-
mains the consolation that this cannot be taken from them.

The child-labor law now before the Florida Legislature
is framed upon the suggestions of the child-labor con-
vention held at New Orleans the past winter, and is not
different from child labor laws on the statute books of many
States.

The evils of child labor are not so evident in Florida
as in our surrounding States, probably chiefly because our
State is not so densely populated. But now is the time to
check what will become a reproach, an evil that will be the
harder to eradicate the longer decisive action is deferred.

The bill of Mr. Farrie should adorn our statute books,
and will adorn them if the parental love that we boast is
more than mere word.



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