

women who believe what they are told unless they have strong reasons for disbelieving it.

He was rich when I first knew the crooked man. He lived in a fine house in the fine part of a fine city. He had a stable full of fine horses and two automobiles, a French chef and a little black-eyed wife who wore as many diamonds as a Hindoo idol.

He's poor now, the Crooked Man—oh, very poor. So poor he can't even hire anyone to send special meals to him at the prison where he is. And the black-eyed wife ran away with the chef. And the Crooked Man is quite alone, for all of the people who flattered him and laughed at his strange talk of "come ons" and "easy marks" are busy laughing at the jokes of the man who bought the Crooked Man's house the day he went to the penitentiary.

I went to see the Crooked Man the other day. He once did a favor for one I love and I can't quite forget that—crooked though he is

or may be. "Poor thing," I thought when I waited in the gray gloom of the warden's office for the Crooked Man to come from his cell. "Poor thing. He'll want to talk about straight things and straight people now, I suppose."

But he didn't. He's crooked yet, the Crooked Man; born so and will stay so as long as he lives.

I don't think the Crooked Man likes straight money or honest prosperity. I believe he'd rather cheat some one out of a hundred dollars than earn a thousand fairly and honestly. That's how he is made. He isn't sorry for what he did that got him into the penitentiary—not he. He isn't a bit ashamed of it. He's ashamed of being caught—that's all. He feels foolish about that, but never mind, when he gets out he'll show 'em—he'll fool 'em—the "honest men" who put him behind the bars. There must be something crooked about them. There is about everyone. He'll find it out, he'll track 'em down, he'll get even—see if he doesn't.

Turn straight? Keep honest? Do the square

thing? Why, he can't—poor, crooked man—he couldn't to save his life. That's why he thinks no one else can, either.

I wonder why?

It buys so little—the crooked money—it's always crooked, too, the thing that crooked money buys, and nobody wants anything to do with it but crooked people. I'd rather be poor than have any of it, wouldn't you—poor and honest and self-respecting and light hearted?

It's a kind of disease, the crooked way of looking at things. A disease like meningitis or lockjaw or anything else dreadful and mysterious. Let's hope we never catch it. And if any friend of mine ever sees me stopping in my path to look even a little longingly at a crooked sixpence that happens to fall in my way, I hope that friend will love me well enough to keep turning me till I come to my senses. For I do not want to live in a "crooked house" or have anything to do with what a crooked sixpence will buy—do you?

ALL READY FOR THE STATE FAIR

From reports received from Horace S. Ensign, secretary of the Utah State Fair, all arrangements have been practically completed for the biggest and best fair ever held in the state. The directors of the fair association this year have undertaken the work on a much larger scale and with the assistance of Gov. Spry and representative men in the various counties of the state have been able to make the representation cover practically every resource and industry in Utah. The rapid growth of the state and the progress and development being made are to be reflected in the fair this year, and judging from reports sent out each department of the big exposition will be full of interest.

The erection of the new coliseum has made possible a much wider scope in the live stock department and the added facilities are being used to the greatest advantage. In the new coliseum are exhibition stalls for 200 head of stock, and in addition even a greater number can be accommodated in the sheds and barns outside. The interest being taken in the live-stock division this year is possibly greater than ever before, and this department is sure to be one of the features.

In the buildings devoted to horticulture, agriculture, manufactures, education, women's work, fine arts, poultry, etc., the same condition exists, and the officials are having difficulty in finding space for all the exhibits.

The new coliseum will be the center of activities in the amusement department, and it is promised that the biggest amusement program ever offered at the fair will be presented this year. The coliseum has a magnificent stage and seats 3000 people. In the center is an immense show arena, around which are the cattle and horse stalls. Two shows each day are planned for the coliseum, including the display of livestock and a big amusement program.

On Monday night, the official opening of the fair occurs, and the feature of the program will be the grand "Carnival of Counties," which is believed will prove to be the most spectacular event of its kind ever seen in the past.

Wednesday evening the Utah Beauty Contest will be held and five competent judges will select the most beautiful girls from among the queens and maids of honor representing the counties. Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings the livestock auction will be held in the coliseum. Each afternoon during the fair there will be horse races, with a big amusement program thrown in as good measure. Six of the largest counties are sending military bands to furnish music for the county days, and in every possible way provision has been made to fill each

day of the week with something of extraordinary interest. The fair opens Monday, Sept. 29th and continues for the entire week.

NO LONGER A TOY

Thirty years ago the telephone was a toy. Today more than three thousand young women in the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona make their living operating the telephone exchanges for one company, not to speak of the thousand or so others who are employed in private exchanges. The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, which operates in these states, maintains a training school for telephone operators and the officials of the company say that the course fitting a telephone operator for her duties is equal to the course of study in many schools for mental improvement. The faculty of memory is very highly trained and the faculty of attention is developed in the telephone operator as in no other occupation. The operators also acquire a fair knowledge of the electrical apparatus used in the telephone circuits and altogether develop powers of mind far in advance of the society young women whose hardest task is figuring up bride scores or compiling lists of fashionable calls.

THE DARKY AND THE MULE

An old negro went into a drug store in Richmond and said: "Boss, will you please, sub, call de Colonel on de telephone?"

"Yes," and he called the Colonel. The old darky said: "Colonel, dat ar mule done stall right in de main street right out here in front of de store."

"Yaas, sub; I done tied strings around his ears, but he didn't budge."

"What's dat? What's dat? Yaas sub, I build a fire under him, but it didn't do nothin' but scorch de harness."

"Yaas, sub; yaas, sub; I took de things out, but he wouldn't budge."

"Yaas, sub; yaas sub. What's dat?"

"No, sub; no sub, Colonel, I didn't twist his tail."

"Yaas, sub; yaas, sub, another gemman twist his tail, but he look like a Northern gemman."

"What's dat, Colonel? Yaas, sub, dey tuk him to de hospital."

"No, sub; no, sub; I ain't heard yet."

—Collier's.

The second day drew to its close with the twelfth jurymen still unconvinced.

"Well, gentlemen," said the bailiff, entering quietly "shall I, as usual, order twelve dinners?"

"Make it," said the foreman, "eleven dinners and a bale of hay."

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