

THE ARGUS.

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By THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.



Thursday, July 20, 1905.

This is the Salina Journal's idea of a joke: "Kansas has been paying \$75 a month to a watchman to guard the state treasury."

Out in Kansas there abides an editor who is truly an optimist. He attributes the bumper wheat crop to the floods of 1902 and 1904.

William K. Vanderblit in an election was beaten the other day for chief of the Great Neck fire department by Egbert L. Cline, the village grocer. The outrage.

The Russians might cast their glances to this side of the globe and take some lessons in speed as well as bluff from the plunger of Death Valley and Funeral Mountain.

A Chicago hand organ grinder has made so much money that he has sold his instrument to a second hand store. Evidently that Italian has decided to quit his monkey business.

The emperor of Japan draws \$3,000,000 annually from the national treasury for living expenses, which enables him to enjoy a fair proportion of the necessities of life, and the wonderful devotion of the people of a conquering nation.

Mayor Weaver of Philadelphia is not satisfied with breaking up the ring of "grafters." He now wants them brought to justice. He wants those who have committed penitentiary of markable thing for a mayor to do. But he's right.

The launching by Thomas W. Lawson of the presidential boom of Gov. Johnson of Minnesota, may prove of more significance as time wears on than most people imagine. The more one considers the suggestion the more he is impressed with it. Gov. Johnson is a self-made man of the people, and he is sound on every question of a political nature that awakens popular discussion.

The navy department has had the good sense to recall an order removing two naval officers as inspectors of public works in progress of construction on the Atlantic coast, and it is now expected the contractors will live up to the specifications as provided when they entered into the contract. It appears that the officers in question insisted on the work being properly done. They objected to the use of inferior material on the ground that it was not what the government expected, and when the work did not meet their approval they promptly condemned it and insisted that it be replaced by the right kind. This action was followed by an appeal to Washington, and the order for the removal of the officers was issued.

Teaching Morals in Public Schools. An interesting inquiry was recently conducted by Rev. H. E. Peabody, a Congregational minister of Hartford, Conn., for the purpose of determining how much ground, if any, there might be for the assertion made by some that in the system of instruction adopted for the public schools of this country, moral training is neglected. Having completed his investigation, Dr. Peabody felt moved to deliver a sermon on "The Public Schools the Ally of the Church in Teaching the Morals," in which he summarized the results of his inquiry and drew the logical conclusion therefrom.

Dr. Peabody had prepared eight questions for submission to the three upper grades of public schools in Hartford, as follows:

- What are your duties to your parents?
What are your duties to the aged?
What are your duties to our country?
What are your duties to public property, such as parks, buildings and books?
What are your duties to your companions?
If you should find a purse on the street, what ought you to do with it?
Name four good qualities of character which you think are most important.
To whom do you owe love and obedience first of all?
The pupils to whom these questions were submitted had not been previously informed of the test, had received no special preparation, and were simply told to write such answers as they thought to be right.
Dr. Peabody examined 225 sets of answers written by pupils of many na-

tionalties and many different religious faiths. "Of course," he said, "the answers represent the teachings of the church and the home, as well as of the schools, yet, almost without exception, I found it impossible from the answers themselves to distinguish the differences of nationality and religion, and the similarity of the papers shows that the one teaching influence that they all have in common, the school, has had much to do with molding their moral ideas."

Commenting on the results of the examination for which those who were tested had received no special preparation, Dr. Peabody said that while it was not to be concluded that all these boys and girls who do always as well as they know in moral conduct, it was not to be disputed, he believed, that their answers would strengthen the conviction that the moral instruction of our schools is of positive and great value, and "that those who call them Godless schools and breeding places of non-moral and immoral conduct do not know whereof they speak."

He declared that the public school is a great ally of the church in the teaching of morals, which will be made more powerful through the widespread movement among educators to make instruction in morals more nearly complete in the schools, and he urged the hearty cooperation between the church and the school to this end. He said that he heartily agreed with the verdict of Secretary Martin, of the Massachusetts board of education, who, after inquiry into the moral training of the pupils in the public schools of that state, said that they have a stock of moral ideas sufficient, if put in practice, to make them safe, useful and honorable members of society.

But, he concluded, the church must serve the school by undergirding morality with the motives and the sanctions of religion. Religion is to morals what the root is to the tree; it puts vigor and motive power into moral ideas. Hence, the school must fail unless it receives the help of the church.

"Chauncey the Peach."

Most people have heard that sobriquet used as applied to Chauncey Depew, the republican United States senator, wit, after-dinner star and "gentleman," but if the stories told about him in connection with the Equitable life scandal are true, Chauncey was never more eligible to the sobriquet "peach" than now. He certainly is a "peach," but as to the soundness of that peach we will not vouch. The New York Press says of Chauncey:

"It is interesting, but not surprising, to note that Chauncey M. Depew not only was receiving a large graft salary from the Equitable, but had his arms plunged elbow deep in the unimproved land graft, the meanest form of all the swindles practiced against the helpless policyholders by faithless trustees and directors. If Mr. Depew is unfit to be a custodian of the funds of widows and orphans, and the record shows him to be unfit for such a trust, then also he is unfit to hold the commission of the people of New York in the United States senate."

A rigid investigation should be had into the allegations he has made, and if "Chauncey the Peach" has been guilty of the offenses charged, he should resign his seat in the United States senate, and if he does not resign voluntarily, he should be required to do so.

Preference.

Just at this time of year July's sweet maize is coming into market and the following lines will appeal to the average man and woman as being true and timely. We find them floating around in our exchanges, and the name of their author is lost to fame:

Some praise the man behind the desk,
The man behind the gun,
The man behind the till, and that;
We heed them every one.
Now, none of these appeals to me;
But for a steady job
I want to be the man behind
The corn upon the cob.

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DAILY SHORT STORY

A POINT OF LAW.

[Original]
"Missouri," said the judge to the prisoner, "what's yer rail name?"

"Jim Sanders."
"Waal, Jim Sanders, yer here to be tried for the killin' of Andy Lary. The said Andy Lary an' you uns was playin' a small game at the Sunset saloon, an' Andy won considerable of you uns' money. You draw'd sudden an' with no other provocation excep' losin' fa'r, jist because you was unlucky?"

"Andy was the unlucky one," interrupted the prisoner. "He dropped a ace of clubs on the floor when I had another one in my hand."
"Are you sure of that?"
"Tom Burke seen it. I kin prove it by him."

"Call Tom Burke," said the judge. Burke took the stand and swore that he had seen an ace of clubs lying on the floor, a duplicate of which was in the hands of the prisoner, but he couldn't say which man dropped it. He rather thought it fell from Jim Sanders' sleeve.

"Judge," said the prisoner impressively, "I've toyed with keards, man an' boy, nigh on ter twenty year. My reputation for skill should puttee me from sich a barefaced statement as that. There's hundreds of men as has played with me who'll swear that I am incapable of any sich onhandness. If I take a keard from my sleeve it goes on ter the table an' not on ter the floor."

The prisoner looked around at the faces of those present for justification. "You've spoke a strong argument in yer favor," said the judge, assuming a judicial pose.

"To prove what I say," continued the prisoner, "I'll agree to deal myself two aces of clubs from a squar' pack an' use one from my sleeve, an' if any member of the jury kin spot the time I done any part of this professional bit of work I'll plead guilty, confess an' dance the rope without objectin'."

"Jim Sanders," remarked the judge, "jest us to this charge you uns has always bore a excellent reputation, an' yer proposition is worthy of yer standin' in the community."

A table was drawn forward, the jury took seats around it, and the prisoner was given the cards. He proceeded to shuffle them, dealt a poker hand to each jurymen, dealt each man to fill, and, without betting, there was a showdown. The dealer's hand was three of a kind, being three aces of clubs, and two kings. The judge looked at the hand meditatively and then turned the aces over. One ace belonged to the pack. The others had different backs. The judge and jury looked at the prisoner as if the vindication was questionable.

"Yer honor and gentlemen of the jury," said the prisoner, "I hev done as I agreed. I said I'd deal two aces of clubs from a squar' pack and take another from my sleeve. The pack was squar', an' that's the aces of clubs. I could hev dealt 'em all from the deck of the same pattern, as I hev 'em in my pocket, but that wasn't what I agreed to do. I agreed to deal 'em from a squar' pack."

The judge continued to stare meditatively at the aces and then said to the prisoner:

"Jim Sanders, I hev remarked on the excellent reputation you bore before the shootin', an' I hev alius regarded you uns a honorable man, but I mus' confess I was not prepared for this special evidence of yer high toned sense of honor. The experiment is entirely satisfactory. We will resume our original positions."

The table was moved back into its place, and the jury again placed their chairs and stools in two rows.

"Gentlemen of the jury," said the judge, "I'll now charge you. The prisoner is accused of shootin' in cold blood one Andy Lary. The occasion of the shootin' is said to be the droppin' of an ace of clubs on the floor, the same ace bein' in the hand of the prisoner. You uns is forbid to consider the onhandness of Andy Lary. There musn't be no prejudice agin' said Lary on account of sich onperfesional clumsiness, specially since he's dead. What you uns has to consider is, Did Lary drop the keard, or did Sanders drop it? An' you uns needn't consider if Sanders dropped it, 'cause he's proved sich mufin' unworthy of him. An' you uns needn't lug in no side questions like whether the prisoner is guilty anyway, even if Lary did drop the keard, or whether Sanders was right in assumin' that Lary wasn't playin' fa'r. You uns is to decide if Lary dropped that ace. If Lary dropped it, then you uns is to find the prisoner not guilty of the shootin'."

The jury rose, but before retriring the foreman put the following question: "Are we to consider if the prisoner done the community a service in puttin' out of the way a man that showed none of them nice points of honor that the prisoner has showed an' a man that was bringin' disgrace on us all by bunglin'?"

"You are to consider that p'int," replied the judge.
The jury then filed out to the saloon where the shooting took place. In half an hour they filed back again, and the foreman announced the verdict: "At the Sunset saloon we found an ace on the floor which the barkeep says is the identical ace about which the shootin' occurred. On examinin' it we found that it wasn't the ace of clubs, but the ace of spades. Nevertheless, since keardlessness on such matters is dangerous and demoralizin' to this community, and since Lary sartinly dropped the ace, we find that the prisoner give him proper punishment an' is not guilty."

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