

THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR AND OWNER.

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LUCK AND FATE.

The literature of all lands are rich in proverbs telling us how large a part luck and fate play in human lives.

That there is much in them cannot be doubted. But it is a truth that is easily capable of exaggeration. It is a doctrine that, if implicitly believed, might make idlers of us all or mere automatons.

It is a dangerous doctrine for the young who should be made to know instead that whatever may be the fate or luck in store for them, their real success and their true happiness can come only from and through their own worth and efforts.

Fate or luck may make a man rich or put him in a high place, but the character, development, the self-respect and the love and trust of others, which constitutes genuine success, can come only from within himself.

Fate and luck are but the bare skeletons upon which each man builds his life. The result depends entirely upon himself.

THE LAND ACROSS THE SEA.

Frederick Miller of America has returned from Europe and he says Europe is one large heap of junk. He wants no more of it. According to Miller, who says he feels just like a rube who has bought a gold brick, he found the following conditions:

"The Alps are nothing but foothills. They could be lost in the Rockies.

"Venice smells to heaven. Any American would clean out those canals in twenty-four hours.

"Monto Carlo is a joke. Any American gambler plays a steeper game than the pikers play there.

"Berlin smells of stale beer and punk cigars.

"Paris is a city of cheap side shows. The boasted beauty of Paris women does not come up to the American brand.

"London is a city of gloom and influenza.

"Egypt is a land of moth-eaten camels."

There are those who claim that Mr. Miller must be suffering from a tor-

pid liver, but a great many others believe that he is more than half right and has the courage to say what he really thinks and to admit that he didn't get his money's worth. Anyhow, Mr. Miller seems to be an American to the backbone, and, although he has drawn a rather unpleasant picture and may have exaggerated conditions his experience stands as an argument that America contains things as well worth seeing as those in Europe. The motto "See America First" is very much to the point and the person who sees all of America first will find few thrills in European travel. America is the wonder box of the world, and the most troublesome place to live, in spite of the fact that a few snobs have expatriated themselves and become citizens of antique countries.

WELCOMING THE ROUNDER.

In the Philadelphia report on vice conditions the idea that low wages paid to girls are responsible in any large degree for their downfall is rejected. This follows the trend of thought the country over. It is recognized that to hold otherwise is to make an unwarranted reflection on the many thousands of young women who do not get high wages and who yet remain virtuous.

"The problem is more of men than of women," says the report. It is strange that so few of the investigators have discovered this before. Without men patrons the traffic in human beings would fall of its own weight. If by some miracle all the men could be made decent and pure we would have no problem at all.

The double standard of morality, it seems has not been given the attention it should have in a question of this kind. Today we have one standard for women and another for men. If a woman goes wrong she is an outcast; if a man goes wrong and keeps on going wrong—in fact if he acquires a settled reputation as a runder and libertine—he still is received in his own circles, he still has whatever social prestige his money gives him. If he is a bachelor with a fair income he has little difficulty in getting married to a clean girl. In fact some young women and some mothers and fathers hold that as a husband a man is better for having "sown his wild oats."

So long as sins of the flesh are condoned in men we will have a vice problem. Only when the men and women are treated alike will real progress be made toward its abolition.

Countess Shot While Hunting.

London, May 3.—Countess Cottenham was found shot to death early today in a woods near Goring, where she was hunting. Members of the family said the shooting was accidental.

FOR SALE—Good team young work mares, sound and true. Wagon and harness. I will sacrifice this as I am leaving the country. Farmers' Feed Barn. 5-2-11

Thursday evening P. A. Foley was host to a delightful ragtime party at the Foley grill.

THE PARSON'S MISTAKE.

It Changed His Mind About the Customs of the Fine Folks.

A Scottish parson whose parish was remote from great cities was invited to a house party at a certain castle, and after much persuasion from his family and friends accepted. Mrs. Walford in "Memories of Victorian London" says that the elderly clergyman had never before been inside a large country house and was not at all familiar with the customs in vogue.

He arrived about 5 o'clock and found the men just returned from shooting and the ladies from driving, all being at tea in the hall.

It seemed nice and sociable on a "hilly" November afternoon, and delighted to find such simplicity prevailing where he had not looked for it, he partook heartily of cake, sandwiches and so forth.

At a little before 7 o'clock some neighbors, who were merely calling, took themselves off, and the rest of the company broke up and went upstairs with bedroom candles in their hands.

"Well, this is better still," thought my humble friend, and he rehearsed to himself the phrases he would use to describe the situation afterward. He would emphatically repudiate the notion that the "aristocracy" kept late hours and were too much addicted to conviviality. He heard himself saying: "Late hours, indeed? I haven't been to bed so early since I was a boy."

He judged that he had been asleep some time when the sound of a gong reverberating through the passages made him start up in bed. What was the meaning of it? What terrible thing had happened? Could the house be on fire?

Finding the back stairs close by down he rushed to the housekeeper's room and electrified the good woman by demanding breathlessly:

"What is it? What's the matter?" said she reprovingly, "except that you'll be late to dinner. The second gong sounded five minutes ago, and you're not half dressed!"

Such speed did he make, however, on being thus enlightened that he actually got into his evening clothes and was in the drawing room before half the other guests appeared. "But," said he, "I never had the chance of delivering the speech I had so carefully prepared exculpating great folks from the charge of evil ways."

The small boy had just returned home after a most tumultuous day at school.

"What lesson," asked his father, "was the most impressed on you today by the teacher?"

"Dat I need a thicker pair of pants."

—Ladies' Home Journal.

Friendliness.

It is not wise to rush into violent friendships with every one you meet, but it is a great mistake not to be un-friendly terms with those with whom you come in contact.

An accusation of having done wrong should not disturb you—unless it's true. —Setb Brown.

Official Explains Arrest.

La Grande, Ore., May 1st, 13.—To the Editor: Would you kindly permit me to answer through your paper, the article appearing in the issue of April 30th, of which the head line reads: "Dance Proves Costly Event" and is a statement as to the cause of the proprietor of the Palace restaurant being fined for a violation of the minimum hour law.

Permit me to say that excuse given in the article, as to the manner the law was violated, is very misleading and would appear to anyone not familiar with the case, that the state labor commissioner's office was taking advantage of a mere technicality to try and punish violators of the law. The true facts of the case in question are as follows: After several warnings that he would be arrested if he did not regulate the hours of labor in his restaurant so the girls would not be required to work more than eight and one-half hours a day or sixty hours a week, the proprietor was arrested and fined for allowing one of the girls to work more than ten hours on the night of April 26th. He was allowed to plead guilty and take the smallest fine, which we permit all persons to do on first offense. I would like to say that we have more trouble with restaurants run by Chinese and Japs in La Grande than any of the others; it seems that most Americans try to operate their hotels and restaurants to comply with the law, the others mentioned try to evade the law in regard to working hours, and it is time the people of La Grande were waking up to the true conditions in their fair city, as here you have a city to be proud of, with large payroll and apparent prosperity on every side; yet the female help

Many New Arrivals During the Week

THIS WEEK'S EXPRESS AND PARCELS POST HAS BROUGHT MANY SURPRISES TO EVERY DEPARTMENT. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THEIR APPEARANCE IN THE LARGE CITY STORES IN THE EAST, THE NEWEST NOVELTIES OF THE SEASON ARE RECEIVED BY THIS STORE.

RECEIVED TODAY

Many new patterns and shades in the popular **Bulgarian Silks.**

See the new style **Vanity Bags** 50c to \$2.50.

DAINTY WHITE DRESSES

Beautiful voiles, crepes and batistes, combined with wonderful creations of embroidery, heavy laces and Bulgarian trimmings. Prices range from \$7.50 to \$25.00.

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Many charming effects in both Bulgarian and peplum styles—materials of finest dress linens, and linen crashes. Price \$7.00. See them in our windows.

The New Window Crepes

Soft and silky in texture and many beautiful shades and patterns. Very popular for kimonas and negligees. 25c yd.

Keiser Neckwear For Men

In the popular wide end Bulgarian silk patterns. Also new knit and baratheas silks. 50c to \$1.50.



More of the Popular FIDELITY \$15.00 SUITS

Received this week.

You must see and examine these suits before you will believe it possible to put so much value and style in men's suits at such a low price.

Fabrics are thoroughly shrunk and all pure wool.

High grade linings and trimmings. Patent shape retaining front and collar. Guarantee of perfect satisfaction backed by the manufacturers and this store.

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It has grown steadily until it has become one of the strongest and most prosperous financial institutions in the West.

The soundness of its policies is attested by the long list of conservative business men who transact their business here; also by an earned surplus of \$130,000.00, the work of time and the result of conservative management.

This bank has facilities for taking care of more high grade business and offers its services to those who appreciate the best in banking.

La Grande National Bank
La Grande, Oregon

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