

THE OBSERVER

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IS "IN OPEN COURT" WISE LAW?

Should there exist indiscriminate admission to the court room where certain criminal cases of tainted social color are being tried? It is not the fault of any justice of the circuit court in this state if this is permitted, owing to a foolish law that exclusion from the court room is ground for reversal of the finding of the jury. It is simply an apparently senseless and groundless rule of law, that clings to legal procedure like barnacles to a ship. It is not sensible to suppose that a circuit judge would permit giddy, snickering boys and morbidly inclined men to remain hour after hour and listen to the sordid details of crimes that make old and serious men and women feel like covering their faces with veils of shame. When a mere girl, by reason of the stringent demands of the law for proof, is compelled to sit on the witness stand and recite some of the sordid circumstances of shocking and immoral happenings before an audience of men, burdened neither with shame nor a sense to profit by the disgrace or the possible punishment due to the defendant in case of guilt—then the trial of such cases is breeding in the minds of young men a passion that may in time bring them also before the bar of justice. If the reading of immoral books, the gazing upon lewd pictures fires the animal natures of youths, these recitals in court cannot but have the same effect in the end. And what of the girl or woman on the witness stand?

No matter how debased an unfortunate she may be; no matter how bold and brazen crime may have made her, there is yet in her that something which revolts against exposure to morbid and shameless gaze. What about that girl when she is innocent of the circumstances that have been forced upon her by a stronger nature? Can she always look up and bear herself with the same respect as she could before the trial? What emotions pass through her heart when she meets a youth on the street whom she recognized at the trial, who laughed shamelessly when she was almost overwhelmed by the necessity of telling the story in all of its unpleasantness?

What possible benefit can a mature man glean from hearing a story of shame and disgrace? Does it not mark the trend of his thoughts? Does it not tell the thinking man that he delights in stories of a vulgar nature, that instead of shielding those who are oppressed with the shame of the whole affair he is adding to the burden of the sorrow? Is he adding one iota to the intelligence of the court, charged with the duty to find out the truth and apply the law?

DEMAND IT OF THEM.

Candidates for legislative offices from Union county should not only be pledged but should be instructed by the people to enter their official careers when elected by introduction of a bill to cut down the useless commissions, to kill off the present tax board, to force the governor to be more economical in the conduct of his office, to put the screw on the secretary of state's office and demand retrenchment.

This state is spending money like a drunken sailor.

And now comes Ashland with a proposition to spend \$25,000 for a state exhibit to be placed at the border

line of Oregon and California in order to catch tourists who travel along the coast. The worst of this feature is that it is backed by prominent men in the state who will ask the legislature to re-imburse those who finance such an undertaking. All wrong. Oregon is getting out of the speculative epoch and she must settle down and make her industries and her acres produce interest on the investment. Exploiting is about over and we should not try to hand any inflated investment to the next fellow who happens into the state. It is up to us as a people to go to work and make a showing.

IT WILL OUT.

The governor of Oregon is naturally denying his part in bringing out Tom Kay, an ex-policeman, to run against Tom Kay, present state treasurer, for renomination. It was expected the governor would deny the charge. Who would not deny such a dirty piece of politics?

But the truth will out. It is a way truth has, and when the chief executive realizes what he has done in an endeavor to shape up a dirty political deal his denials will be even stronger. And this is the sort of men we are getting under the guise of "let the people rule," but discouragement should not follow for the popular idea of government is yet new. After it has been operative in Oregon for a quarter century we do not believe such men as West, Jackson or any other members of the present machine can fool the voters.

Dirty politics put the old crowd out of business and it will do the same for the new. Advancement is too certain to permit any official to throw slime. And the governor will one of these days find this his boasted popularity, of which he is so proud, has vaporized and left him.

TO BE BELIEVED IN.

Gerald Stanley Lee, in that much discussed book, "Crowds" bears down hard on the economic value of "being believed in." His theory is that if a man can make people believe in him and gives them no cause to regret their faith, he has contentment and a competence within his grasp. To be believed in is as good as having money in the bank, for it means that one will constantly have money to put in the bank.

Anent the point, he tells the story of the builder who conceived the highly original plan of applying the golden rule in his business. He was not a particularly religious man in the ordinary sense of the word. He did not dream of accomplishing a great reform. He only wanted to be comfortable and happy. He found he could be neither and do business in the ordinary way. So he tried the new way. He figured out in advance that here on one side was the law of supply and demand and that here on the other was a demand for something of which few offered a supply. He made it his affair to have the supply and cater to the demand. The demand was for honesty, the kind of honesty we mean when we say a man does unto others as he would be done by. He made over all the traditions and practices he had learned in order to supply this demand.

According to the story, his services as a builder are sought far and wide, not because he is any better builder than a good many others, but because after he has estimated the cost of a house, say \$10,000, he occasionally can refund a few hundreds of unexpended money, and because while he is on the job he really is the buyer's agent and as such looks after the buyer's interests as though they were his own.

Probably there are a good many business men, builders, merchants, wholesalers, etc., who came to this point of view long ago. In fact, all signs indicate that the men who are doing business in a big way in this country realize that confidence and the things that make for confidence are the biggest assets they have.

It is reported that an exploring party on the Amazon has been eaten by cannibals. It would almost be worth while making the long and arduous trip to see what would happen if an Amazon cannibal should try to bite Col. Roosevelt.

Congress is opposed to bonding for the Alaskan railroad. By retaining the appropriations in its own hands

every time the section boss wants a new shovel congress can chase down the line on a handcar.

An English peer has been knocked down and beaten by a suffraget. We should not blame Mr. Pankhurst now if he asked for a divorce and the restoration of his maiden name.

CRAW FISH AT FOLEY GRILL

The Scrap Book

The Scotchman Scored. John Butler Yeats, who paints portraits and incidentally is the father of William Butler Yeats, the Irish poet. is a regular patron of a certain New York restaurant. Among the habitués of this place he has acquired a reputation as a raconteur.

"In my part of Ireland," he tells, "there was a noisy Scotchman whose abuse of everything Irish riled the neighbors considerably. At first, however, he refrained from bragging about Scotland, and we decided to wait until he should be guilty of that indiscretion before acting drastically.

"The chance came at last. He had been swearing at the Irish peat fires, the Irish rain and the Irish spuds and ended up by saying: 'Hoot, mon; Scotland was very deferent. It is a land flowing with milk and honey.'

"Well, we went for him. Scotland, we pointed out, was known to be a barren waste inhabited by starvelings and the Biblical quotation he had used could not have been more outrageously misapplied.

"He looked us over with his canny eye. 'Ye're wrong,' he said, 'and I can prove it. Scotland flowed with milk, and maybe honey, all the time that I was there. I left when I was ten months old!'"—New York Sun.

Equality. Come, give me your hand, sir, my friend and my brother. If honest, why, sure, that's enough. One hand, if it's true, is as good as another. No matter how brawny or rough.

Though it toil for a living at hedges or ditches. Or make for its owner a name. Or fold in its grasp all the dainties of riches. If honest, I love it the same.

Not less in the sight of his Heavenly Maker. Is he who must toil for his bread; Not more in the sight of the mute undertaker. Is majesty shrouded and dead.

Let none of us jeeringly scoff at his neighbor. Or mock at his lowly birth. We are all of us God's. Let us earnestly labor. To better this suffering earth.—Matthews Barr.

Where East Met West. In Mr. Headland's book, "China's New Day," he tells a story of the Chinese general, Ma, that has bearings on the problems of woman's rights and incidentally shows that under diverse civilizations human nature remains pretty constant.

The general was calling on one of the older missionaries. During the conversation he said: "Dr. S., I want to ask you a question. In your home-country is the woman the head of the home or is the man the head of the home?"

"Why, general. It is this way," replied the missionary. "If the man is a stronger character than the woman he is the head of the home, but if the woman is stronger than the man she rules."

The general pushed back his chair and said, with a melancholy smile, "In my miserable country it is exactly the same!"

Told Her About It.

The stage drivers in Yellowstone park are bothered considerably by the foolish questions asked by their passengers and often resort to satirical answers. Once a lady tourist who seemed deeply interested in the hot springs inquired:

"Driver, do these springs freeze over in winter?"

"Oh, yes, yes. A lady was skating here last winter and broke through and got her foot scalded."—Everybody's.

When Doctors Disagree.

When the new edition of one of the best known encyclopedias now on the market was being written and the various specialists were in the sanctorium at work the historian turned to the mathematician and asked, "How do you spell ingestion?"

The other, not understanding what was said, replied: "In jest? With a J, of course."

"No, 'ingestion.' I appreciate your gibe, but this is no jest."

To which the mathematician answered meekly: "With a G, I suppose. Same as gestation, isn't it?"

The authority on physiology, who overheard the reply, broke into the



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NEW SEPARATE DRESS SKIRTS

SOFT PEDAL LIKEAY TO GET SEX HYGIENE CHIEFS TALK

(Continued from Page 1.)

tervene. Governor Colquitt's grand standing in Texas has given the state department food for worry but the state department lets it be known that it will not be alarmed by the fomenting of trouble by the sanguine governor of the lone star state. The latter has threatened to invade Mexico with Texas ranchers and cowboys for the purpose of restoring order, but the department of state has intimated that it will ignore the utterances of the governor.

Aristocratic Tourists Flee. Mexico City, March 5.—The terrific attack on the town of Tesisitan struck terror into the hearts of refugees of high rank who have made this a place of refuge since the war. Thousands are pouring into the capital from Guadalajara, a fashionable winter resort. When the news reached here that fighting was in progress, a panic ensued among the aristocrats.

(Continued from Page 1.)

dealer. The program of addresses and the topics, along with the hours of their delivery, follows: 8:00 p. m. the Exent and Results of Sexual Vice.

The Prevalence and General Seriousness of Venereal Diseases and their effect upon the individual and the home, Andrew C. Smith, M. D. member State Board of Health, member of Executive Board of Oregon Social Hygiene Society.

Present Conditions Among Boys and Girls, E. E. Bragg.

The Four Sex Lies and Other Causes, Remedies. Dr. Calvin S. White, Secretary State Board of Health, President Oregon Social Hygiene Society.

What Can We Do for La Grande, Geo. T. Cochran. 9:45 p. m. adjournment.

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