

Medford Daily Tribune

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EXAMPLE OF MAN'S IMPOTENCE.

One of the earth's fairest lands, which has known all the extremes of fortune from the dawn of history, has just felt the full weight of nature's arm once more. Sicily and Calabria are desolate, and, at the moment, it seems as if there could be no rebuilding upon the ruins—as if the "hazard of new fortunes" were too desperate for hope. But, with the lapse of a few months or years, asserts the New Orleans Times-Democrat, the immortal longings will prevail, towns more splendid will rise upon the ashes of the old, the survivors and their children will go about their business as if the routine of the ages were intact. The dead past buries its dead, the bitterest of pangs is brief and the grass soon hides the battlefield's blood stains. In the divine economy, individuals and nations are but bubbles on the everlasting surge which comes we know not whence—and goes we know not whither.

Such phenomena simply attest the truth of a famous prose poet's remark that of all the mysteries of existence the most pregnant lies in the fact that "man, forever face to face with an inevitable death, can forget that he is born to die." We construct our houses, our systems and our creeds as if we had a freehold and were not tenants at will. We scheme and trade, give obligations and take them as if we were sure to be here when the obligations fall due. On the list of the New York stock exchange there is at least one bond which will not mature till more than four centuries shall have gone. Neither the maker nor any immediate holder of such a bond can have an imagination ample enough to grasp the possibilities of an interim long as that which separates the establishment of the Roman empire from its fall. Nor is it in these great affairs alone that we take for granted the social and political surroundings as we know them. There never was, there never will be the man or the people keen visioned enough to look into the grave. Decades, and even eons, are conceivable in a vague way—but eternity baffles us all.

Thus nature, with fond touch, helps us to see—and to be blind. No city would be built if the founders could assimilate the lesson of Ninevah and Tyre; no aristocracy would intrigue to perpetuate its wealth and its pride if the tale of the overthrow of aristocracies were more than a fable in its eyes; no democracy would rear air castles if it understood the flimsiness of the base on which such castles are reared; no priesthood would pretend to exclusive stewardship of the oracles of God if it bore in mind the temples that have crumbled to dust and the cults that have passed into silence. We dream and work, because we cannot see things as they are just as he who has not been rocked by an earthquake assumes that terra firma is a reality instead of a mere figure of speech. As the child feels himself safe in the mother's arms, so we trust that providence will answer our need with a caress. Why are these things so? Philosophy puts the question—and echoes it. If the echo were enough there would not today be a church beneath the cross, nor a mosque beneath the crescent.

In the meanwhile it must suffice to know that each soul is a universe unto itself and that, through its narrow channels, the tides of destiny are as strong as those of the Hellespont. This thought does not overwhelm us in the dawn, as it does in the gloaming, of our days; but, as the goal draws near, the wildest charioteer gets a glimpse of the shape of the course. And, in the retrospect, it becomes plain that, though the physical perishes the mortal endures. Pain fades into pleasure, love is translated into duty, craft yields to principle, whim is swallowed up in law, and egotism is the herald of the instinct to agonize for those who will not repay, even with thanks. "A pot of ale and safety" was the prayer of Falstaff's page, but the victorious armies are of a different breed—fight straight on, without knowledge of the ban and without dread of the steel.

Southern Oregon weather, like the Prodigal Son, has returned unto its own. For some three weeks we have been buffeted by chilling blasts; drenched with rain—and have seen the unusual sight of buildings and landscapes blanketed with snow. But today the sky is again bright and the warm chinook is foretelling the arrival of spring. So once again the southern Oregonian is enjoying his heritage, knowing that the recent storm has been but a great factor for good.

made for final settlement.
 Estate George Magaric; order made for final settlement.
 Estate John Swinmear; order made appointing Job M. Swinmear guardian; bond filed.
 Estate C. I. L. Bontrager; order made vacating sale of real property.
 Estate James P. Mankins; final report filed and administrator discharged.
 Estate W. H. Bradshaw; order made to make deed to 160 acres in section 34, township 36, range 2 E.

in section 3, township 37, range 1 W 1
 Alfred Weeks to E. B. Pickel, 240 acres in section 34, township 36, range 1 W 8000
 Gus Newberry to Andrew Cantrall, land in section 23, township 39, range 3 W, also water right. 5800
 Andrew Cantrall to Gus Newberry, land in section 22, township 39, range 3 W 11000
 G. P. Billings to City of Ashland, property in Ashland 1
 Hargadine Cemetery Association to City of Ashland, right of way for iron pipe 1
 Annie E. Smith to William E. Smith, lots 11 and 12, block 11, Railroad addition to Ashland 10
 Charles H. Harris to Ellen Jenkins, land in section 5, township 39, range 1 E 1
 H. P. Fahlund et al. to Maud J. Hawley, lot 5, block C, Boulevard Park addition to Ashland 10

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Jesse Houck to George W. Mitchell, lots 7 and 8, block 1, Railroad addition to Ashland 134
 R. H. Toft to Bert Anderson, all right in Anderson Toft addition to Medford 1
 Estella M. Baldwin to Richard W. Northrup, land in section 32, township 36, range 1 W 1
 E. L. Bates to R. H. Toft, lots 10 and 11, block 1, Gray's addition to Medford 10
 Susie L. Allen to Karff Rose, land in section 14, township 39, range 1 E 275
 Annie E. Smith to William E. Smith, lots 11 and 12, block 11, Railroad addition to Ashland 10
 R. H. Progett to William Davis, 160 acres in section 35, township 36, range 1 W 1
 Margaret Dearoff to C. D. Woodverton, 6 acres in section 25, township 37, range 2 W 1
 William M. Colvig to Aubrey G. Bunker, property in Medford 500
 E. B. Pickel to the 401 Orchard and Land company, 561 acres

YOUNG MAN SWEARS OFF SMOKING CIGARETTES—DIES.

Hazleton, Ind., Jan. 25.—Edward Lane, 29 years old, died here as the result of keeping a New Year's resolution in which he gave up the use of cigarettes. He was addicted to excessive smoking and was urged to stop them with the new year.
 So accustomed had the young man become to their use, the denial of them affected his nervous system seriously. But he determined to do without smoking, thinking the keen desire for them would pass away.

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WILL SEE THAT GOLD HILL GETS GOOD ROADS

Louis Smith, our newly appointed road supervisor, was in town recently, says the Gold Hill News. When asked regarding the work he expected to do during the coming year, he stated that he would devote a great portion of his time to the roads around Gold Hill this year. Mr. Smith says that he realizes that Gold Hill has always had the worst of the deal in the matter of roads, and that the county owes them a lot of work, and that he proposes to make amends as far as circumstances will permit. He also says that a bridge will be built across Sams creek this summer. Same creek is one of the worst streams in the county during the high waters and it is extremely dangerous to cross and the bridging of it is a matter that ought to be delayed no longer.

That Mr. Smith intends to improve the road from Gold Hill to Sams Valley will be a welcome fact to the Gold Hill merchants and citizens, as much trade has been driven from the town in winter months on this account alone, and everybody should lend all possible assistance to him in this work.

Probate.
 Estate Ernest J. Handley; order made continuing cause to January 28.
 Estate Ephraim Edmondson; order