

# The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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## TRUE HEROISM.

The sacrifice of human life in an endeavor to save the lives of fellow-men, when the steamship Argo went aground at the mouth of Tillamook bay, is a reminder that heroism still lives, notwithstanding this has been called an age of selfishness. In a way, however, this age may be correctly termed selfish. The manner in which we live, the extreme to which all things are carried, society, dress, amusement and the eager rush for the almighty dollar that is necessary to reach that extreme, has much to do with the appearance that is termed selfishness. And, looking upon things from the external side, it is not strange that our age receives the term, for outwardly greed, graft, extortion and all sorts of mistaken motives seem to find creation in the brain of man.

And yet, The Sentinel does not believe in the real selfishness, either of the age or the individual. It admits that oftentimes the noblest feelings seem crusted over with cynicism, and that the spontaneous cheer and good will which is natural to man lie sealed beneath a spiritless indifference or a guarded conservatism. But let disaster come in the way of earthquake, fire or flood, let misfortune strike man's neighbor, and indifference, conservatism and selfishness lose themselves in sympathy, active effort and beneficence. The heart beneath the crust of an everyday, methodical life has been touched, the real man reached, and naturally and spontaneously he gives of his best.

There are innumerable instances of heroism and sacrifice that the world has never known. The pathos of the secret history of martyrdom where heroism has come to be second nature in quiet, unobtrusive lives is perhaps the most touching of all. The hidden trouble, uncomplained of, the skeleton in the closet that must be met with smiling front, where all days are alike in sacrifice and martyrdom takes the noblest, most intrepid courage of all. There are other lives of heroism of which we are reminded, the lives of those who are in constant jeopardy that others may live the life of ease and pleasure; the miner in his dark earth-cavern; the engineer in his railway cab; the life saver in his hazardous risks; the pilot at the helm, the man on the pinnacled spire, or at the guns in the porthole of the warship, and numerous other places of risk and peril. We who walk in safety and comfort are apt to think of our brother's hardship and exposure only when some great calamity calls him with a shock to our mind. The man at the post of danger is generally possessed of a brave, intrepid courage, ready in the hour of peril to give his life rather than to desert his post.

Is this age a selfish one? Externally viewed, yes. Viewed from the standpoint of the real in man which is always true to itself in time of need, no.

One of the most nonsensical utterances that ever emanated from a publication gifted with ordinary intelligence is the opinion expressed by the Oregonian that "Joe Cannon could carry Oregon by a majority equal to any obtainable by Teddy Roosevelt." The people of this great commonwealth should have tired long ere this of Cannonism, and refused to elect men to congress who are sympathetic with his high-handed modes of procedure. The sooner Joe Cannon is

relegated to political oblivion the better it will be for the country. The Oregonian either misunderstands the true condition of national affairs, or maliciously misrepresents that condition. It is more charitable to take the former view.

## TIME BRINGS CHANGES.

The statement of that venerable churchman and esteemed citizen, Mr. Vernon Veatch, to the effect that he preferred the old-time religion to that of the present day recalls that as there have been changes in the manner and method of the pulpit, so there have been changes in the life of the minister. Within the vivid recollection of the writer there was a time when this individual stood aloof from the people. The pulpit from which he expounded the gospel was high above the people, and when he mingled among members of his congregation it was in the performance of his accustomed pastoral calls, during which he propounded many questions about the personal religious experiences of his subjects and tortured the children by testing their knowledge or memory of the Catechism. The high pulpit is a thing of the past, much to the comfort of the people in the pew; the periodical pastoral call of the olden time lingers only in memory and all for the good of the people.

There was likewise a time when the pulpit was the informing agency in the life of men, but today, in the presence of the respectable press, the magazines, the lecture platform, and hundreds of other telling agencies, knowledge is materially increased and men learn things for themselves. The pulpit no longer has a monopoly on general intelligence. An element in the power of the former pulpit was its dogmatism. Today the dogmatic pulpit is weak. Men resent the pulpit that attempts to speak ex cathedra. They accept its utterances not because of or according to its dogmas, but because of the reasonableness of its utterances, their fidelity to the scriptures and the sincerity of the speaker. But however marked be the changes in the relation of the pulpit to the people, it has not lost, but has increased its power within the people.

With these physical changes in the attitude and relation of the minister to the people, he is no longer a man apart from the common, every day life surrounding him. He is both minister and man. The sacerdotal has given place to the service-rendering minister. If he has passed beyond the awe of the people, he has passed into their use. He has not only their greater respect and reverence, but he has their confidence, esteem and love.

## MUST OBEY LAWS.

The Comptroller of the Currency has sent out word to the National Banks that they must obey the law relating to excessive loans. Under the recent amendment to the statute relating to this subject, the limit of a loan that a national bank may make to any corporation, person or firm is 10 per cent of the unimpaired capital and surplus. It is the intention of the Comptroller to exact strict compliance with the statute in its present form, and with that end in view he has adopted the plan of calling the attention of boards of directors of offending banks to the requirements of the statute and the penalties for violations of the loan restriction. There is a double penalty for such violations. In the first place, the directors who knowingly permit an excessive loan to be made are individually liable for any loss that may be sustained thereby. Secondly, any bank which violates the restriction may be subjected to the forfeiture of its charter. Henceforth, in the case of each bank violating the law a letter will be addressed to the directors advising them of the fact, and they will be required to send the Comptroller by return mail a letter stating that excess loans in their bank will be reduced to the lawful limit and that thereafter the law will be strictly observed. The signatures of all the members of the board to the

reply will be expected, and if for any reason it is not possible to obtain the signature of a director an explanation must be given. The national bank examiners will also be required to co-operate with the Comptroller in the effort to eradicate excess loans, and they will be furnished with a copy of the letter sent to every national bank violating the law in this respect. On the occasion of their next examination of the bank the examiner will call for the bank's copy of the Comptroller's letter and the reply made to it by the directors of the bank. If the bank still persists in making over loans, its charter will be forfeited. This is simply another move of the Treasury Department at Washington toward giving the United States the safest and best banking system in the world. Let the good work go on.

## KEEP TO THE RIGHT.

"Keep to the right" is the law of the road, which, when obeyed, saves one a world of trouble. Society is a public highway on a grand scale; a great turnpike whereon a hurrying, jostling, wrestling crowd of badly-assorted humanity is ever thronging. Here is life in all its better phases; childhood with its golden hair and wondering eyes; youth with its widening, thoughtful outlook; manhood with its firm step and earnest purpose; old age with its bowed form and whitened locks. Here, too, are thickly strewn the wrecks of life; misguided childhood; headstrong and wayward, erring youth, rioting in frivolity and dissipation, and sowing the seeds of physical decay and moral death; vicious manhood, treading the downward road; and old age, sinister and sere, with its painful memories and hopeless future; all commingling in the one great journey from the cradle to the grave.

How much discord, inharmony, and jostling would be avoided in this journey if each traveler would only keep to the right. There is a pitfall before every young man; temptation to do evil; a snare for his feet. There are habits of idleness, dissipation and extravagance which will stick like the shirt of Nessus, hampering your noble efforts, and eventually dragging you down to the gateway of despair. Keep to the right and avoid it. When tempted to deal in gossip or scandal; to play tyrant; to withhold the gentle word of love or praise; to lower the standard of honor, or do ought that would make you less manly or noble in the eyes of good men and angels—keep to the right. Keep to the right. These golden words should be engraven in letters of living light on the temple of every human soul. They should stand forth as finger posts at the junction for every wrong; at the point of every divergence from the straight path of rectitude; by every wayside temptation. Keep to the right—spurning every ignoble thought, every unmanly action. Thus will you lay up treasures for a grand old age, and life will bear for you its richest fruits.

A very sure measure of the prosperity of the farming class of any community is the nature of the homes occupied by those following farming. A visitor, as he drives through this section of country, and looks upon the comfortable homes on the farms, knows that here the farmers are prosperous and are receiving liberal rewards for their labor.

In his annual message to congress it is expected that President Taft will recommend the establishment of a new bureau or department of public health. If a sufficient showing is made he will recommend the creation of a department, the head of which will be a cabinet officer. Otherwise he will probably content himself with recommending a bureau under one of the departments now existing. There are already nine departments with cabinet officers and a prejudice exists in congress against increasing that number. Once a department is created, its field of usefulness and incidentally the number

of employees and expense of conducting it, seems to increase by leaps and bounds. On the other hand, those interested in the question appertaining to public health insist that nothing short of an independent department will serve to protect the health of the nation in an adequate manner, that such work must be carried on independently and without subservience to interests of wealth-producing or wealth-accumulation.

## NESMITH COUNTY.

There should be less opposition to the formation of Nesmith county from a part of Lane and Douglas when it is understood that Lane alone has a total area of 2,714,500 acres, with a population of 30,000, while Douglas has a total area of 3,076,460 acres, and a population of only 18,500. The combined area of the two counties is nearly 6,000,000 acres, and its population less than 50,000. This would give every man, woman and child now residing in the two counties 120 acres of space were all of the territory thus available. Nesmith asks only a small part of this vast area, and is going to get it. There is a campaign on in this state as well as throughout the entire Pacific Northwest for smaller farms, and this movement has the encouragement of those who would have the section prosper. Would not the same argument in favor of smaller counties appeal to you? It means more rapid development of unrivaled resources; it means better roads; it means better educational facilities; and above all it means, in this particular case, an opportunity to have a voice in the administration of county affairs.

Did anyone ever hear of a railroad paying off its bonds, except by selling new ones? When there is no demand for betterments or extensions, prosperous railroads spend their surplus in buying stock interest or control of other roads. Even when roads liquidate, their secured bonds are extended with additions instead of being paid off to take a fresh start.

The Union Pacific is a typical example. As soon as it began to prosper it bought Southern Pacific and tried to buy the Northern Pacific. Though it failed to get control, it made a lot of money by rise of stock. In 1906 it had \$60,000,000 surplus, which it used to buy stock of other roads, using \$75,000,000 borrowed money for the same purpose. This time it lost money instead of making it, but it was able to hold for the rise and then unload without much loss. Again the Union Pacific has \$60,000,000 of surplus and people in Wall street are asking what it is going to buy next.

It never seems to enter any mind that a railroad with a lot of money may reduce its indebtedness by taking up maturing bonds instead of making a new issue. Railroad debts, like those of most nations, seem to be irreducible. Like our present bank note currency, they are elastic only one way. Probably this is because value of security and need for extensions increase so rapidly that it is really cheaper to borrow than to pay. Or perhaps they are getting ready to sell out to the nation.

Braganza, who married a mess of American dollars, declares that his high sense of honor demands that all his debts be paid in full at once. This touching devotion to honor is believed to be the expression of an acquired taste.

The edict has gone forth, but we fear not the consequences. Mr. W. C. Edwards of Drain says his people are strictly opposed to the proposed county division, and will do whatever possible to frustrate such a move. It has been intimated by the Roseburg News that Mr. Edwards would feel more inclined to advocate such division as would give Drain the county seat of a new county.

Congressman Champ Clark of Missouri is correct in his judgment when he says the split is of material aid to the democratic party, and that unless the factions get together

the democrats will gain control of the house after the next election. If the democrats control the house it will have a splendid chance for the election of a president in 1912. Mr. Clark is a presidential possibility.

The awakening of a new civic spirit in our midst is in itself a wholesome thing. The slogan "Get together" has a high moral significance. It means the subordination of selfish and private interests to the common good, and that is the genesis of true patriotism.

It is quite apparent that the Taft administration will adhere strictly to the legal aspect of all questions. Government by impulse is always dangerous. That is what is back of the difficulty in regard to the conservation policy of Secretary Ballinger.

A movement is on foot to organize the sons of former union soldiers into an organization that shall be known as sons of the Grand Army of the Republic. There is already an organization known as The Sons of Veterans but somehow it has never appealed to the sons of old soldiers as it should.

The Eugene Register is blossoming out. It has purchased a Duplex press, making it possible to print a complete eight-page paper at the rate of 6000 per hour. The Register always has been a good paper, and The Sentinel is pleased to note its prosperity.

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