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TODAY'S WEATHER—Cloudy to partly cloudy; cooler; winds becoming southerly.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 79; minimum temperature, 51; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JULY 14, 1902.

OREGON'S CORPORATION LAWS.

The recent incorporation of the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company, with a capital of $2,000,000, and the organization of 30 companies in the last two weeks with an aggregate capital stock of over $7,500,000, draws attention to the meager provision the Oregon Legislature has made for the regulation of corporations. No evil results have thus far grown out of the laxity of our laws, but it would seem that the rapidly widening sphere of corporate activity makes it advisable that the laws be extended to meet the requirements of the times. A few years ago corporations confined their operations to a few enterprises of such magnitude that ownership and control by individuals or partners was practically impossible. Now every kind of business, from the management of a syndicate of railroads to the keeping of a peanut stand, is considered a proper field for the exercise of corporate powers. Incorporated companies were found so useful in carrying on large undertakings of a semi-public nature, such as the building and operation of railroads, that the laws have been so framed as to permit men to associate themselves together as a corporation for any and all legitimate purposes.

The advantages to be secured by incorporating are so great that very frequently an individual conducts his business through a corporation, though he is in fact the sole owner, and in form is the owner of all but two shares of the stock of his company. By incorporating, he loses his individuality in the corporate name and limits his liability to the amount of his corporation assets. The great good that has been accomplished in the promotion of public enterprises through corporations is so well known as to need no discussion. No one who considers candidly and intelligently the history of the development of this country will favor for a moment any Legislative action which would materially lessen the facilities for organizing corporations and carrying on their work. No such a one will permit even a frequent abuse of corporate powers to prejudice his mind against corporations in general. It is well that Oregon offers an attractive field for investment by companies organized under the laws of this and other states, and it is to be hoped that whatever legislation may be enacted in the future will be such as further to encourage incorporations of a desirable nature.

But because it is the part of wisdom to encourage corporations, it does not follow that they should be given the free rein they have had in the past. Every man who reads the reports of articles of incorporation filed from time to time knows that men who have not even so much property as they are entitled to hold as exempt from execution sometimes join in the formation of a company whose capital stock is $1,000,000. This can accomplish no good and may result in much harm. The capital stock of a company should represent paid-up cash assets or tangible property of an equal market value before a company is permitted to enter into legal existence and transact business in the corporate name. The laws of the state should specify the rights, powers, duties and liabilities of corporations, their stockholders, officers, directors, agents and creditors. The mode of transacting business should be regulated by law so as to protect stockholders and creditors. The requirements should be reasonable and not burdensome. They should be such as to inspire confidence and thus attract investors. The drafting of a comprehensive corporation law, harmonious in its several parts, practical in its operation and applicable to the latest commercial methods of business, is not the task of a day, nor of a week, nor a month. Corporation law has assumed a magnitude and importance such as to command the exclusive attention of the ablest lawyers. The trial of corporation cases occupies much of the time of our courts. To study understandingly the experiences of other states under their several laws and to solve the problems that have arisen in this branch of American jurisprudence since the dawn of the 20th century will be the work of a practical man with a judicial mind.

But of more pressing importance is the enactment of a law which shall require of corporations the payment of a tax commensurate with the special privileges they enjoy. These privileges have a value to their possessors. The special rights and powers are conferred by the state, and the state should exact a reasonable consideration therefor. Foreign corporations, in particular, should be required to pay a license tax for the privilege of transacting business in this state. Such a license tax should be imposed upon those corporations whose business is such that they are compelled to pay no property tax proportionate to the protection they receive from the state. Oregon has been among the last of the states to adopt the plan of requiring corporations to bear their share of the burdens of government, and the shifting of the weight should be delayed no longer. At the rate charged in New Jersey, which is a popular state with corporations, the receipts from the filing of articles of incorporation within the last two weeks would have been $1500. In most of the states the fee for filing articles of incorporation varies according to the amount of the capital stock, but it is sufficient to produce considerable revenue. Oregon already charges insurance and surety companies an annual license fee of 2 per cent upon their net earnings. There is no reason why this rule should not be extended so as to include telegraph, telephone and express companies and other corporations having a large income but paying only a small property tax.

SHIPPING TRUST AND SUBSIDY.

Senator Hanna and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, both ardent advocates of a bill which is to take $9,000,000 per year from the producers of the country, and present it to millionaire shipowners, take widely different views of the effect of the Morgan shipping combine on their pet measure. Senator Hanna was recently quoted as blaming the Morgan combine for the failure to get the bill through the last session of Congress. The Ohio Senator, who is something of a shipowner himself, was quick to see that while the public might give up alms to a blind beggar clad in rags, it would become suspicious of an able-bodied solicitor togged out in broadcloth, diamonds, etc. The dear deluded public began to get the impression that men who were financially able to buy $150,000,000 worth of ships were in no great need of alms from the Treasury.

According to the Post-Intelligencer, however, Senator Hanna is wrong in his deductions, for instead of the shipping combine proving an argument against the passage of the shipping subsidy bill, the Seattle paper asserts that "it affords one of the strongest of all arguments for the passage of such a bill, in order that American capital, instead of going toward increasing the naval strength of a rival nation, may be diverted again toward the upbuilding of an American merchant marine which can be adapted as a portion of the country's naval force in time of need." The Seattle friend of the millionaire shipowners laments the fact that the vessels of the syndicate will continue to fly the British flag; that the great majority of the new vessels will be built in British shipyards; that the vessels already built will be available for use by the British Government in time of war, etc.

The first objection, which is perhaps the greatest, can be overcome much more easily and economically than by taking $180,000,000 out of the public Treasury, and presenting it to men already rich beyond all earthly needs. Let the Seattle paper and all other patriotic organs who desire to find the American flag on every sea demand that Congress grant American registry to the big fleet that is now carrying American products to market and is being operated by American citizens, and paying profits, when there are any, into American coffers. Follow the example of Germany, whose merchant marine has grown faster than that of any nation on earth. No subsidies were asked by the patriotic citizens of the Vaterland, but they went out into the marine highways and byways of the world, and they bought ships wherever they could find them, regardless of nationality. They sailed and steamed this fleet back to Hamburg, Bremen, Stettin, Kiel and other ports, and the government loaded the owners with honors, gave the ships free registry under the German flag, and sent them out to make Germany famous in the commercial conquest of the world. Ten years ago, or for the year 1891, out of a fleet of about 140 vessels from this port, but four flew the German flag; five years later, in 1896, there were nine representatives of the rising sea power. Last year the number had increased to 38 vessels, and of this number but a scant third were German-built vessels, all of the others being foreign-built vessels bought by German owners and placed under that flag.

As to the success of this plan of increasing the American merchant marine, the Seattle paper is referred to the case of the American ship Kenilworth, now under engagement to load general cargo at Hamburg for Seattle, from which port she sailed not so very long ago with wheat for Europe, both trips being made in competition with British, German, Norwegian and other vessels. The Kenilworth was a British vessel until she was damaged by fire in San Francisco and bought by the late Arthur Sewall about a dozen years ago. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining American register for her, but Sewall worked her in, and she has been a credit to the flag she flies, and has brought back to this country many hundred thousand dollars which would still be in the possession of some foreign owners had she been refused American registry. Let the Seattle paper demand that Morgan and his associates be given the same opportunity that was given Sewall with the Kenilworth, and that is given by Germany to her subjects, and the problem of a merchant marine will be quickly solved.

As to the building of "the great majority of the new vessels," Mr. Morgan and his associates will probably do what any other sensible man would do—build them where they can be built cheapest. As to that point, the Seattle paper is referred to Mr. James J. Hill, who is building the largest ships in the world at an American yard for the foreign trade. An American yard has also just finished the largest two ships ever built for the Pacific trade. The contract was let by the late C. P. Huntington after receiving bids from all of the big shipyards of Europe. America is also building warships for some of the greatest nations on earth, in competition with old-established plants abroad. We have equal facilities with other nations for building a merchant marine, but our antiquated navigation laws prevent us from securing one as rapidly as some of our rivals for trade on the high seas are getting theirs.

Stockholders of the Lewis and Clark Exposition who have not yet paid the assessment which was due on July 1 should send in their money without delay and save the company the trouble and expense of sending collectors after them. The less expense of an extraordinary nature the company will have to meet the more it will have for the purposes for which it is formed, and the less danger there will be of financial failure. If people will not pay up, the only thing the company can do is to compile a delinquent list and start after the delinquents. They who are slow to pay should remember that a subscription to the capital stock of a corporation is a contract to pay money, and that amounts due under an assessment bear interest the same as a promissory note.

TOO MUCH COMPLAISANCE.

It is passing strange that attempts to debase children are so numerous in this community and that so little stir is made over them. Occasionally one is reported to the police or gets into the newspapers, and a wholesome effort is made to find the culprit and give him his deserts, and it is then that the great number of unreported cases is revealed to the anxious inquirer. Almost every household knows of them, directly or indirectly, and there are clews innumerable to follow. But as it is a somewhat difficult matter to bring the machinery of the law to bear upon men whose intention is to commit a base crime, and a still more difficult matter to get direct evidence of actual commission, the tendency of the community seems to be to suffer in silence.

But this will not do. Every attempt upon the purity of childhood should stir somebody to action. It should be made plain to the slimy monsters whose trails through the community leave no doubt of their intentions, that they are in peril—in peril from parents who will protect their children, not merely turn a slender clew over to the police. These clews are now so numerous as to be confusing. And the offenders go boldly about, seeking fresh innocence to debase and trusting to the difficulties of legal detection and to the complaisance of the public for their security.

Every attempt should arouse indignation and active pursuit. Such stir should be made in every case as would convince these snakish moral lepers that neither their acts nor their presence will be tolerated, and that the community will not be too particular how justice is meted out to them. This is one of the duties that parenthood imposes, and if it were generally observed we should be troubled less with the noisome creatures who prey upon childhood innocence and morality and contribute altogether more than their share to the depravity of the age and of the future. People must rise against such insidious and shameless assaults or sink on the scale of civilization.

A SOUND VIEW.

President Hadley, of Yale University, reaches a sound conclusion based on common sense in his annual report when he declines to follow Harvard's lead in requiring the baccalaureate degree as the condition to the law and medical schools of the university. President Hadley says that the logical outcome of such an arbitrary standard would be "to reintroduce the old distinction, now abolished in America, between learned and unlearned professors; to shut out from the law men like Abraham Lincoln and John Marshall, and to degrade the college course by shaping it to the needs of those who do not want it, but take it as a compulsory stepping-stone to something else." President Hadley and Yale University have decided to "throw open the doors of our professional schools to all who have the necessary basis of knowledge, no matter where they acquired it."

Yale deserves to be heartily congratulated upon its common-sense decision. Why Harvard should have established a different standard is difficult to understand, for some of the most celebrated scientists and most eminent lawyers of Great Britain were not graduates of any college. Neither Faraday nor Huxley nor Spencer were graduates of any college; and with the exception of Darwin, the majority of Great Britain's most famous scientists of the nineteenth century were not men of university education. Some of the greatest of England's jurists, like Lord St. Leonards, were men without a college training. Roscoe Conkling, George F. Edmunds and A. G. Thurman, the ablest lawyers who have served in the United States Senate within the last thirty years, were men without a college training. The men who have made the greatest contributions in this country to medicine, surgery, science, have few of them been men who dated from any college. The great English historian of Greece, George Grote, was not a university man; neither was the Greek historian, George Finlay. John Bright received nothing but an English education; neither he nor Cobden were college graduates, but their English was as masterly in its clearness, force and purity as that of Daniel Webster. The great astronomer, Sir William Herschel, was the son of a bandmaster, and was brought up a professional musician. Sir Humphrey Davy and John Dalton owed no debt to any college.

These facts are not recited as any reason why universities should not be nourished and maintained, but they are recited as a reason why no university that is worthy of being nourished and maintained should ever establish a classical standard of admission to its schools of medicine, law, theology and science. The tools belong rightfully to those who can use them. It is no fair test of a man's fitness for admission to the benefits of a school of medicine, law, science or theology that he has received a classical education. You might as well attempt to prove the native quality of a Bret Harte or a Howells or an Aldrich, or his right to a place of honor in American literature, by asking if he had ever obtained a baccalaureate degree.

A most illuminative light is shed upon the seamy side of popular government by the increasing power of the Lafollette faction of Wisconsin Republicans, one of whose darling projects is the defeat of Senator Spooner for re-election. The irony of it lies in the fact that Spooner is probably the ablest man in the Senate, and the session just closed has added tremendously to his prestige and ability to serve his state with dignity and effectiveness. All this, of course, does not concern the Lafollette wing of Wisconsin Republicans, who derive only increased resentment and determination from every triumph of their antagonist. As is not uncommon in such cases, Senator Spooner was originally without animosity toward the Lafollette faction, but has marshalled his forces and gathered resources as best he could to defend himself from their attacks. The Lafollette people may win, and if they do they are certain to elect Mr. Spooner to stay at home, though the result will be irreparable loss to the state and nationally a calamity. Doubtless every state has chapters of similar fatuity and bitter memories. It is one of the incidental hardships of popular government. Every man must be equal before the law. An innocent man is sure to suffer through the operation of the law necessary to punish nine guilty ones. The statesman of real worth and power will sometimes be cast out by the machinery we must maintain to enable us to get rid of the undeserving. Justice and law are not always identical. Vox populi is sometimes the voice of a crazy fool.

Civilized as we are in many ways, the approved method of celebrating Independence day is undeniably and indefensibly a display of barbarism. Its noise and dangers are unjustifiable, and it is curious that with all our antipathy to China we permit her savage fires and red paper to rule our National holiday. Protest against this form of observance is now almost universal with thoughtful persons. The Brooklyn Eagle, for example, exclaims:

> There is sad work for the physicians and surgeons, hard work for the firemen, irritating work for the police. It is the time of the National agony. What are we to think of ourselves, that we consent to put to death so many, and to cripple so many, and to make so many homeless, for a holiday? Patriotism? No; that protects and preserves, and aims to make a people better and happier, while the arming of children and the irresponsible with weapons and power tends to a shortening of life and destruction of property. Patriotism seeks the good of the country, while the Fourth of July has ceased to stand for much in the adult mind except a day of annoyance, weariness, discomfort and harm. How long are we to continue this spectacle in our cities?

The scientific and doubtless the only answer to the Eagle's question is that gunpowder will continue to rule the Fourth until some other method of celebration is enthroned in the popular heart. The way to eradicate a bad habit is by crowding it out with better things. There is a chance here for individual or organized effort looking to a more civilized form of jubilation. The originator of the reform will deserve a monument.

The always difficult problem of restraining gambling and regulating houses of prostitution is to some extent simplified when the Mayor of a city takes a determined stand for public decency and the enforcement of law. It is still a problem, however, from which it is impossible to eliminate the controlling factors—the gambling instinct and debased human passions. Shifty, persistent, clamorous, these vices will most certainly live in the dark if forbidden to disport themselves in the light, and to force them under cover is about the best that practical men in charge of municipal affairs can hope to do. But this is manifestly a great gain, since in this enforced retirement these vices attract only those who seek their haunts, and cease to offend public decency or recruit the ranks of their attendants through the agency of "suggestion," that subtle force the power of which is but dimly comprehended, but against which wise people seek sedulously to guard the young and the ignorant. No one expects to eradicate vice from a city, but it is not unreasonable to believe that it can be placed under restraint.

The retiring Surveyor-General of Idaho, Joe Perrault, is making a brave kick against the decree that relegates him to private life, but it is ineffectual. It was hardly to be expected that he would be pleased. He says his action in suspending half the clerical force of his office on the day he enterd it and on the same day filling the vacancies thus created with an equal number of his personal or political friends, was warranted by the incompetence of those removed. The authorities say it was a species of pernicious partisanship that is not to be tolerated. There is no middle ground for such opposites to get together on. And when a series of official acts is open to similarly varied construction it is not surprising that those in authority should act upon their view of the matter. Moreover, those who know Mr. Perrault know that political unfaithfulness is not one of his faults, and that with him partisan reward rather outranks all other considerations in the public service. His experience will tend to inspire respect for the Civil Servic Commission as not altogether a piece of Governmental "millinery."

It is a compliment to the intelligence of the public from which the Gladstone Park assembly draws support that a Lewis and Clark programme should be arranged for tomorrow. Not only is it recognition of the historical importance of the Lewis and Clark exploration, but it also testifies to the popularity of the subject and its possibility even for entertainment. Stories of the hardy explorer and of pioneer achievement will never lose interest. They freshen the life of this workaday generation and give it ground connection that is in every way beneficial. Of peculiar significance to Oregon was the Lewis and Clark achievement, and it is capable of inspiring the greatest popular interest.

First came the hops to the Puyallup Valley of Washington, then came the aphides and after them hard times. The hop industry was ruined by the lice, but the rich valley could not be abandoned, and the people took to raising berries in place of hops, and are doing well at it. Are insect pests a device of nature for enforcing rotation of crops and conservation of energy?

The coyote may be getting numerously scalped in Oregon, but the taxpayer is doing the suffering and he is about due to howl.

Forests and Rainfall.

Chicago News.

An example of the persistence of error is the idea that the presence or absence of forest has an influence on the amount of rainfall. Some keen observer long ago detected the fact that forested regions enjoyed a heavier rainfall than those not forested and jumped to the conclusion that rainfall was produced by forests, and that the removal of forests diminished the rainfall. Looking over the earth he found many treeless desert regions and forthwith instanced them as frightful examples of men's wastefulness. Syria, Northern Africa, parts of Italy, are often quoted as illustrations of man's destruction of climate. In reply man can certainly plead not guilty. The geography of this Mediterranean region, the configuration of land and water and the direction of the prevailing winds are such as to give it a light rainfall—forests or no forests. The situation is really this: Want of rain prevents the growth of trees; want of trees does not prevent rain.

A HISTORICAL FICTION EXPOSED

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

In his recently published reminiscences Hon. George S. Boutwell exposes a historical fiction which has done duty in the newspapers and books of two continents for more than 30 years, which has deluded millions of persons, but which never would have deceived anybody who took intelligent pains to learn the facts. This fiction is contained in an Edinburgh Review article which says that Lowell's "Biglow Papers," which appeared in the Mexican War period, and which were directed against the war, sent many Northern Democrats out of their party, and that after those "papers" appeared "it became creditable to advocate abolition in drawing-rooms, and to preach it from fashionable city pulpits to congregations paying fancy prices for their pews." "In the workshops, the barrooms and other popular resorts," the Review adds, "the laugh was turned against the slave-owners, the ground was prepared for the popular enthusiasm which recruited the armies that exhausted the South, and Lowell must share with Lincoln and Grant the glory of the crowning victories."

The Scotch magazine's delusion has appeared in different words in many books, newspapers and periodicals since the Civil War time, but that it is a delusion can be shown in many ways, some of which are outlined by Mr. Boutwell, who was a Democrat of anti-slavery tendencies at the Mexican War period, and who got acquainted with Lowell shortly afterwards. Lowell was a comparatively obscure person at the time the "Biglow Papers" began to appear; they were printed in a paper which had only a small circulation, and which did not go into barrooms and workshops; there was no split among the Northern Democrats until the Barnburner-Hunker fight of 1848, after the close of the Mexican War, which fight, virtually, was confined to New York, and which had more to do with the Federal patronage of the Democratic party in that state than it had with slavery; abolition preaching in pulpits in Massachusetts did not become fashionable until after the opening of the Civil War, and, as a matter of fact, the majority of the people of Massachusetts, or of any other part of the North, did not begin to favor abolitionism until after Bull Run.

Webster's peroration in his reply to Hayne in 1830, especially that magnificent passage opening with "When my eyes shall be turned to behold for the last time the sun in heaven," which appeared in the reading books of all the schools in the North, and in most of those in the border states for almost a generation before Beauregard fired on Sumter, was read by 10,000 persons for every one who read the "Biglow Papers." Just before his death Henry W. Grady declared it was that speech by the man whom he called the "Lion of the North" that brought Appomattox. Webster may "share with Lincoln and Grant the glory of the crowning victories," but no sane American in 1861-1865 thought of Lowell in that connection. Greeley said in the Tribune in the Summer of 1854, just after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska law, that Douglas and Pierce, by that act, which the former framed and the latter signed, had made more abolitionists in the past three months than Garrison and Phillips could have made in 50 years. Neither Greeley nor any other intelligent American said or thought in 1854, half a dozen years after the close of the Mexican War, that Lowell had any especial influence, by anything which he ever said or wrote, in the direction of abolitionism. Not Lowell's "Biglow Papers," nor Garrison's "Liberator," nor Wendell Phillips' fiery philippics, but the ravings of the slavery extremists in Congress, the acts of the Southern madmen in the secession conventions and the firing on the country's flag by Beauregard, Lee and Johnston made abolitionism "fashionable" in the loyal North.

Difference Between Lee and Cromwell.

Minneapolis Tribune.

The fact that sticks in most minds in relation to Robert E. Lee is that he broke his oath as an officer of the United States Army to take the command of a hostile army. Even this might be explained away by Mr. Adams' logic. But back of all that lies the fundamental moral division of the Civil War; the fact that the South rebelled, not only against a political government, but against the moral law of liberty and the light and leading of modern civilization. No disappointment with the development of the negro race has obliterated the deep conviction that slavery was wrong and that no nation founded upon it could live and prosper.

This, more than anything else, inspired the stubborn resolution of the North and keeps alive conviction of the justice of the Northern cause and the fundamental injustice of the Southern. This conviction, more than any other, will delay the hour when a bronze equestrian statue of General Lee will look across the Potomac to his ancient home. Cromwell has been rehabilitated in England because he betrayed his sovereign for justice and honor, for liberty and progress, for advancement of the higher law of civilization. Lee enjoys a personal respect and admiration never given to Cromwell. If he should not be rehabilitated in the United States, it will be because he betrayed his country to fight against all these things.

AGUINALDO.

In lieu of a better job, Aguinaldo might secure several open dates for a lecture in New England towns.—Pittsburg Gazette.

Nothing but a penful of ink in the signature blank of the oath of allegiance now stands between Colonel Aguinaldo and the American lecture platform.—Boston Globe.

General Aguinaldo seems to be reluctant to leave his present quarters, notwithstanding the amnesty proclamation. Evidently he knows a good thing when he is up against it.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Those eminent Filipinos, Senators Hoar, Patterson and Carmack, have not as yet signified their formal acceptance of the President's generous amnesty offer.—Toledo Times.

Aguinaldo's liberation puts him in the same class with the man who drew the elephant at the raffle. Now that he has it he doesn't know what to do with it.—Atlanta Constitution.

The opinion of Admiral Dewey clearly is that George Washington Aguinaldo would not only have cut down his father's cherry tree, but would have lied about it afterward.—Philadelphia Press.

History will be unable to provide amnesty for Edward Atkinson and the rest of the scuttlers. The copperhead enemies of American soldiers always drop into oblivion.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Now that Aguinaldo is the beneficiary of amnesty, it is to be presumed that he can come to the United States if he wants to. We cannot promise that there will be a series of brilliant dinners and other festivities in his honor, or that the Marine Band and a detachment of soldiers will be ordered out to accompany him to the tomb of George Washington, but nobody will be mean enough to begrudge him a nice quiet time.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Hymn to the Spirit of Nature.

Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Life of Life! Thy lips enkindle
  With their love the breath between them;
And thy smiles before they dwindle
  Make the cold air fire; then screen them
In those looks, where whoso gazes
Faints, entangled in their mazes.

Child of Light! Thy limbs are burning
  Through the vest which seems to hide them,
As the radiant lines of morning
  Through the clouds, ere they divide them;
And this atmosphere divinest
Shrouds thee wheresoe'er thou shinest.

Fair are others; none beholds thee;
  But thy voice sounds low and tender
Like the fairest, for it folds thee
  From the sight, that liquid splendor;
And all feel, yet see thee never—
As I feel now, lost for ever!

Lamp of Earth! where'er thou movest,
  Its dim shapes are clad with brightness,
And the souls of whom thou lovest
  Walk upon the winds with lightness,
Till they fail, as I am failing,
Dizzy, lost, yet unbewailing!

TRACY, PRIMITIVE TYPE OF HERO

San Francisco Bulletin.

It is just one month today since Daredevil Tracy climbed over the walls of the Oregon Penitentiary and began his mad game of hide-and-seek with death.

During that time he has practically held up two states.

He has proved himself a desperado of the most astounding nerve and resourcefulness—a sort of Wild West Napoleon for generalship.

His deadly 30-30 Winchester and the consternation inspired by his utter lack of fear have combined to burn and bite a wide zone of terror from Salem all the way to Seattle.

No dime-novel hero ever displayed more unshrinking courage and a greater contempt for death than this sanguinary outlaw. The Younger brothers and the James boys in their palmiest days never did anything to quite equal Tracy's recent escapades.

With the country swarming with armed head-hunters, he marches boldly through towns and spends days at farmhouses, meantime chatting brilliantly with the inmates and making the timid occupants "feel at home."

Now and then, when he needs protection, he presses into his service an unwilling body-guard. Occasionally he steals a man or two to act as his valet.

He displays a saving sense of humor, offers to dance with ladies whom he captures and treats them with Chesterfieldian politeness and the chivalry of a Dick Turpin. Even the children are reported to have run to this most astonishing outlaw for protection from the prowling deputies.

This merry-hearted Robin Hood of the Puget Sound country feigns a contempt for the professional manhunters who with their bloodhounds keep him pretty constantly surrounded, and insists that he is fleeing only from the reporters who are hounding him down in order to interview him. At times he seems almost to be hunting the Sheriffs, from whom his extraordinary nerve and generalship have forced tributes of admiration.

The fellow is a crafty desperado of the worst type, having already killed nine men, most of whom stood between him and liberty. He keeps several counties in a chronic state of panic.

The railroads are running excursion trains of holiday-making junketers into the seat of disturbance, each excursionist a walking arsenal, determined to rid society of this intrepid and resourceful pest, and incidentally to win the reward of $6000.

In spite of his wide deflection from rectitude, however, there seems to be that about this fellow of cool, dauntless courage, who has so successfully played the desperate game with death—a game in which the stake is his own head—to provoke a feeling almost of admiration.

The world loves the conqueror. The man devoid of fear appeals to that primitive savage instinct within even the best people as a sort of hero.

Mussolino, the Italian brigand, was idolized and protected for years by the peasants. The robber Barons and predatory Kings of a thousand or two years ago became the accepted leaders of the hero-worshiping people by virtue of precisely the same qualities whose exercise in this age of the world causes Tracy to be hunted down as an enemy to his kind.

Had this miracle of daredevil courage and self-reliance lived "in days of old, when knights were bold," instead of being hunted through the chaparral labyrinths, a center of rifle shots, undoubtedly he would have gained a following more enthusiastic and more numerous even than he has today, who would have hailed him as a leader and celebrated his valiant deeds in song and story.

It requires the mellowing fog of tradition and of history to make these strenuous and blood-letting leaders of ancient times, who ruled by virtue of brawn and intrepid pluck, loom up as heroes. The click of the prosaic telegraph instrument destroys the halo of this primitive type of hero.

The influence of the Tracy brand of daredevil fearlessness on the mind of the average sober and respectable citizen presents a curious study for the psychologist. Nine out of ten men one meets on the streets forget their detestation of the cold-blooded crimes this crude reincarnation of the mad Macedonian, who goes about unchecked, conquering his little world, in openly expressed admiration for his phenomenal nerve and the clever tactics he displays in his triumphal march through the enemies' country.

No doubt much of this feeling is a survival of the admiration for brute force that used to dominate mankind in the semi-savage days, when ruthless might was generally crowned. This feeling, in spite of our highly polished civilization, lurks in the breast of every one, and is sure to break out through our thin veneer of refinement and cultivation whenever the chivalrous, intrepid scamp with the unconquerable purpose appears.

Besides, this attitude of mind in a measure grows out of the universal feeling of sympathy for the under dog in the fight. So that perhaps those misguided street-corner philosophers who are predicting that if Tracy succeeds in looting a bank of sufficient money he may yet be elected Mayor of Seattle are after all displaying a considerable knowledge of the hidden springs of human nature.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Too Bad.—"I think it was a shame for the Indians to bury their hatchets!" "Why?" "Just think how lovely they would be for decorative purposes."—Detroit Free Press.

Benedict—Do you think automobiles are dangerous? Bachelor—Yes; I knew a fellow who took a girl out in one, and he's going to marry her.—Yonkers Statesman.

First Commuter—So you rode past your station last night? Been drinking? Second Commuter (wearily)—No; there was a new brakeman, who called out the name of the station so distinctly that I didn't recognize it.—Judge.

The Status.—Marie—I have an engagement with Cholly, and I don't know how to get out of it. Helen—Haven't you any reason for breaking it? Marie—Yes, I have a reason—Cholly is the reason—but I want an excuse.—Puck.

Hope.—"That merchant is very unreliable!" exclaimed Mrs. Biggins. "An idea!" exclaimed Mr. Biggins. "That's where we'll go to buy our fireworks. Maybe he'll palm off a lot of worthless last year's goods on us."—Washington Star.

One Exception.—Mrs. Wickler—Did you ever see how all the necessaries of life have gone up? Wickler—No, they haven't all gone up. "Well, I should like to have you mention one thing that hasn't gone up." "Certainly. My salary."—Brooklyn Life.

Dark Waters.—Reporter—In describing this new drinking fountain, would you say "the water issues from an ornate pipe in a 'little stream' or 'jet'?" Snake Editor—It's just Schuylkill water, isn't it? Reporter—Yes. Snake Editor—Then you'd better say "a little stream of jet."—Philadelphia Press.

One Man's Wisdom.—Diggs—What became of your friend Waggs? Biggs—He went out West about a year ago and married a widow worth half a million. Diggs—Now, that's what I call taking time by the forelock. Biggs—How so? Diggs—Why, he celebrated his golden wedding 50 years ahead of the schedule.—Chicago Daily News.

Truly Modern.—"No," said the up-to-date person, "we are not going to have any firecrackers or other fireworks in our town this year." Here we express our mild surprise, adding that it really seems unpatriotic. "Oh, possibly," he smiles, "possibly. But then, you know, since so many of us have automobiles we find that we can injure a great many more people with them than with the antiquated means you mention."—Baltimore American.

Summum Bonum.

Robert Browning.

All the breath and the bloom of the year in the bag of one bee:
  All the wonder and wealth of the mine in one gem:
In the core of one pearl all the shade and the shine of the sea:
  Breath and bloom, shade and shine—wonder, wealth, and—how far above them—
    Truth, that's brighter than gem,
    Trust, that's purer than pearl—
Brightest truth, purest trust in the universe—all were for me
    In the kiss of one girl.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It is unkind of Tracy to make the posse hunt him on Sunday.

The Portland ball team can always be depended upon—to lose.

Chicago is threatened with a famine. Nothing but a boom can live on wind.

Kitchener, London: Beware of vidders, and don't accept any houses.—Dewey.

People who are equal to the strenuous life are now taking their annual vacations.

If Washington isn't careful, San Francisco will outbid her on the next Senatorial fight.

If we could only pack this weather what a trade with the East we should be able to build up!

If Tracy gets lonesome he can come back to Oregon. He was really surrounded once or twice over here.

Topeka, Kansas, has a flood, and the Rev. Charles M. Sheldon at the same time. Truly Topeka is being punished for abiding in Kansas.

If King Edward is wise he will cut the cables and pull off the coronation before another army of spectators makes the ordeal too severe.

James J. Hill was obliged to dodge a sea serpent that threatened his yacht the other day. Surely an octopus oughtn't to be afraid of a sea serpent.

The Roosevelt children haven't torn their clothes for several days. If this thing keeps up, the correspondents will leave Oyster Bay in disgust.

Emperor William's repeated conference with J. P. Morgan leads to the suspicion that His Imperial Highness wants to sell his empire and devote his remaining years to writing poetry, building yachts, painting pictures, inventing, and other quiet and dignified pursuits.

Representative Southard, of Ohio, who admits that he does not know many stories, and that those which he tells are generally ancient, recalled lately an incident which happened up on Lake Erie, near his home. An excursion steamer was wrecked, and it was supposed that everybody had been drowned. About midnight Mr. Southard received this telegram from one of the survivors:

"I am saved, but please break the news gently to my wife."

Marriages must be rare events in Sturgeon, Mo., if one may judge from the eloquence with which a recent one inspired a local scribe. "The wedding," says the village paper, "as though a thunderbolt had descended from a cloudless sky, was a great surprise to our people, and set the town to echoing and re-echoing the glad tidings." The courtship, too, was none of your modern commonplace wooings. Note: "Little Cupid, with a burnished arrow, at once commenced his matrimonial maneuvers. Homer, young, strong and ambitious, made a noble confession of love to the rosy cheeked maiden of his choice and was accepted."

"Well," said the conductor, as he sat down by the drummer, "every one to his trade. I'd stood in front of a bar so often I thought it was just as easy to stand behind it. A friend of mine who ran a saloon wanted to see a man one day, and asked me if I'd 'tend bar for him a few minutes. 'Sure,' said I. I only had one customer. He said he'd take whisky, and I set out the bottle and two glasses. He poured out a big drink, and when he got it half down, I remembered that I was behind the bar. 'What'll you have for a chaser?' said I. He looked at me hard, finished his drink, started for the door, and said, 'You'll do.' That finished my career as a barkeep. I concluded I wasn't simultaneous enough for the business."

PERSONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT.

Not long ago a New Yorker, well known for his convivial habits, sent a box of candy to a girl uptown and wrote on his card the hackneyed sentiment, "Sweets to the sweet." The next day he received a brief acknowledgment, which read: "T'anks to the tank."

John E. Milholland is trying to get the Federal Government to purchase for $30,000 the ruins of old Fort Ticonderoga and restore it to the exact status it bore when Ethan Allen demanded its surrender. He formerly was editor and proprietor of a Ticonderoga newspaper.

When Carnegie was an employe of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in Pittsburg, long years ago, one of his friends was a conductor named John Powers. The millionaire learned recently of Powers' whereabouts and circumstances, and has given him a pension of $50 a month. The two old friends had had no communication for a long time.

Miss A. E. Bennett, of London, has attained the honor of "equal to the 13th wrangler" at Cambridge this year. Miss Bennett is a Girton student. The significance of the success that has been attained by Miss Bennett in mathematical study will be appreciated if it is borne in mind that there are only about as many hundreds of women students as there are thousands of men at the university.

It is stated by the Bookman that Bret Harte gave many of the last months of his life to work on an opera libretto for Emanuel Moor, a Hungarian composer. The hero is an American who, for a lark, plays cowboy in the wild West show and presently drifts across an old French chateau and falls in love with its young heiress. Bret Harte is said to have greatly enjoyed the work, and some of his lyrics are charming.

It is now declared that Jules Verne, the French writer, is not in danger of becoming totally blind, as has been reported. For some time he has been troubled by a cataract growth, but he is able to go on with his work, declaring that he does not mean to stop until he has written 100 books. His latest work published is the 82d, but about a dozen more are nearly or quite ready for the printer. M. Verne is now 74 years old.

Hardly a doubt exists that the Vermont Legislature will re-elect United States Senator Dillingham, for the Green Mountain State is slow to make changes in that office. Edmunds might be serving now had he not resigned, largely to escape from new Senators from the West, who kicked traditions through the skylights and insisted on participating in public affairs almost as soon as they were sworn in. Mr. Morrill was retained until he died in the last decade of nearly a century of life.

Leon Bourgeois, the new president of the French Chamber of Deputies, represented France at the peace congress at The Hague, and gained there a reputation as a diplomat. He has been Minister of Public Instruction. He is an orator, and possesses all the arts of the trained parliamentary speaker. To M. Deschanel, whom he had beaten in his new office, he said: "I succeed you; I shall never replace you." That was a delicate way of softening defeat, which is not habitual at the Palais Bourbon.

Poems as They Were Not Written.

University of Michigan Wrinkle.

LONGFELLOW.

I stood in the road at midnight—
  No, the clock was striking three—
And my thought was sad of the wife so mad
  Waiting at home for me.

GRAY.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
  The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea.
I'm glad I don't know how to milk, I say,
  Perceiving all those cows draw nigh to me.

BURNS.

Willie brew'd a peck o' malt;
  And Rob and Allen came to pree.
When there they got the brew was gone;
  But Willie was a sight to see.