The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 1907.

"MONEY DIRECT TO THE PEOPLE."

A Republican paper, before us, contains this statement:

> A correspondent writes to ask this paper why it would not be advisable for the Government to issue a billion or so of the old Abe Lincoln "good for all demands, both public and private," greenbacks, to be loaned to the people on right security, during times of money stringency. The correspondent reasons that if a coterie of bankers in each city can issue clearing-house paper money that is good for general use, why cannot the Government issue a billion or two of greenbacks, based on the faith and credit of the whole Government. The only answer we can give is that we are under the gold standard, which does not permit the issuance of greenbacks.

And a Democratic paper, before us, contains this statement:

> Since the Government decided to issue debt certificates, credit currency, "fiat" or "rag money," not based on gold, why could it not have done so directly to the people, instead of turning the business over to the banks, so as to give them a big profit?

It is a sorry matter, indeed, when ideas so hazy as these are in the minds of the people, especially in the minds of those who write and print. In these ideas there is not the first conception of the necessary principles of finance.

The country must maintain the gold money standard so that values may be kept on the gold basis, and all notes may be redeemable in gold. It is the only safety for industry and business. But if the Government should issue "a billion or so of good old Abe Lincoln greenbacks" the power of redemption would be lost, as it was in those old days, and the country would be afflicted again with all the evils of an irredeemable currency, and would suffer again all the losses arising from it. It is said the notes could be "loaned to the people on the right security." But the people have no security to offer that the Government could take. Even land is no security for paper, when the gold standard is lost. Government does not want land, nor horses, nor wheat. It leaves commodities to private ownership.

Government has not issued any "rag money not based on gold," because Government has engaged to maintain the gold standard. And it is doing it. The problem is difficult, under our system, since the notion of paper inflation has so deep a hold. It is complained that the notes are not "issued directly to the people." But on what security; and how would their redeemability in gold, or their exchangeability with gold, be maintained? The bonds, in limited quantities, are offered to the people, and become the basis of additional bank circulation; because in this way the banks are made a buffer, so to speak, between the demand of the people for gold and the Government that must maintain the parity and keep command of the gold to maintain it. The parity—the gold standard—would be lost in a week, it would be lost before tomorrow morning, if the announcement were made that the Government would issue money direct to the people;—that is, that it would print Treasury notes, as it did in 1861, for payment of its current expenses and general obligations. The Treasury must keep the banks between itself and a direct run on its gold reserves. Thus, the banking forces of the country are enforced to help in maintaining the parity and the gold standard. Government could not do it alone, except by heavy contraction, which would pinch business to death.

Clearing-house certificates, no matter where issued, are but makeshifts, temporary currency, good only for their promise of quick redemption. The bills may run as credit notes a month or two. Their value depends on knowledge or belief that they will be speedily redeemed. Only through assurance of quick redemption will anybody take them at their nominal value. They are not money at all, nor do they purport to be money. They are merely credit notes. United States notes are the same, with only the additional quality of legal tender; which, however, would render them no better, if the prospect of their conversion into actual money were lost. Treasury notes or bank notes, never to be redeemed in gold—or redemption indefinitely postponed—would be worth no more than clearing-house certificates never to be redeemed. It is the function of government to maintain the gold standard, and its operations are conceived and conducted with the purpose of making the banks help to do it.

All this is the mere alphabet of monetary science. It is discouraging to be obliged to hammer it, and to hammer it over and over, at this late stage of the debate in our country on money and currency.

HOME AND FOREIGN CUPIDS.

The Chinese Cupid, according to Mr. Poon Chew, is a sophisticated little creature with a cool head and a keen eye. He is subject to no illusions and misled by no passions. Compared with the American Cupid, he is a wise counsellor instead of a gay deceiver. Our young couples marry because they are in love. Chinese youths and maidens marry because it seems a good business proposition to their elders. At first glance our way seems the best one. The other appears sordid, avaricious, destructive to all romantic feeling, blighting to all tender emotions of the heart.

But there is one thought concerning our system of making love and marriage which will not down. We submit more completely to the guidance of love in these important affairs than any other people; and we have more divorces than any other. Is there a connection between the two facts? China is not the only country where marriages are arranged by the elders without regard to the preferences of the couple to be united. The same thing is done in France, and, with exceptions, throughout Europe. Even in England love plays a lighter part than with us, and more attention is paid to the question of income and social fitness.

Mr. Poon Chew thinks that the arrangement of a marriage requires the ripe wisdom of mature people and should not be left to the headstrong passion of a boy and girl. Perhaps the only way to decide whether he is right or not is to inquire which system works out better in practice, ours or the Chinese. The condition of women in China is said to be rather degraded, but it seems that the position of a wife and mother is more secure than here. She is not nearly so likely to be abandoned or divorced. To many persons a somewhat inferior position which is nevertheless secure would appear preferable to a more dignified one which is subject to frequent disaster. In France, where, as we have said, the system of arranging marriage is much like the Chinese, woman has a position quite as dignified as she has in America, while her place in the home is more stable. Divorces in France are more frequent than formerly, but they are not by any means so common as they are here. Something would be lost, of course, by permitting our elders to arrange our marriages, but very likely a great deal more would be gained.

IMMATERIAL AND IRRELEVANT.

Because Mr. Johan Poulsen made a profit of $1,000,000 in the business of sawing and selling lumber, that does not justify the 10-cent advance in the lumber rate. No one has questioned the fact that Mr. Poulsen and a large number of other millmen have grown rich in the business in a very short time. But if their profits were doubled and trebled, it would not make reasonable an unreasonable freight rate. If the 10-cent advance in freight which is being fought by the lumbermen is unreasonable and out of proportion to the rates charged on other commodities, it should not be allowed. But it is difficult to understand where the million-dollar profits of Mr. Poulsen have any bearing on the cost per ton per mile of moving freight.

The testimony has perhaps demonstrated that the railroads have not been exacting all that the traffic would bear, as has been charged; otherwise Mr. Poulsen's profits might not have reached such princely figures. The question before the Interstate Commerce Commission is not whether the Oregon lumbermen are making money too rapidly, but whether the railroads are charging a rate that is unreasonably high. No one has complained about the amount of money Mr. Poulsen is making out of the business. That is a phase of the question that rests between him and the men who buy the lumber. It is not at all clear where such testimony is of value to the railroads who are credited with placing Mr. Poulsen on the stand.

President Elliott in his testimony yesterday went into details to show that the 40-cent rate was too low to admit of a profit in handling the business. If he can support his contention to the satisfaction of the courts, the profits or the losses of the lumbermen will have but small part in affecting the decision. The rate on hops remains the same today that it was two years ago. Then the growers were all making money. Today they are all losing money. The testimony of Mr. Poulsen looks like a case of dodging the issue.

AN UNHEEDED PROTEST.

Until a very few days before the sailing of the battleship fleet there still lingered in the minds of many of the Eastern people a strong belief that the proposed cruise would be abandoned. The somewhat sacrilegious sentiment that the Almighty disdained to assume any jurisdiction west of the Missouri River has always been popular in the East, especialy in the provincial habitat of the Manhattan Islander. The possibility that anything of consequence exists anywhere else in the United States is so preposterous that it is usually dismissed from the mind of the New Yorker with hardly a passing thought. For these reasons it was extremely difficult for the East to believe that the fleet was actually to be transferred from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But when the final orders were given and preparations had reached a point where there was no longer doubt of the departure of the fleet, the feeling shifted from languid incredulity to a condition bordering on alarm.

The New York Journal of Commerce devoted a column of its valuable editorial space to assuring its readers that "from whatever point of view the President's order for the assembling and dispatch of the fleet is regarded, it must be condemned as both unnecessary and mischievous." With the smug complacency that has made New York famous, the Journal of Commerce assures us that "the contingency of war in the Orient exists only in the imagination of half-informed or wholly prejudiced men." But is the "contingency of war" so much greater in the well-protected harbors of the Atlantic that the fleet should be kept there permanently? By commercial ties alone the United States is bound so close to Great Britain and Continental Europe that war on the Atlantic is a possibility so remote that the suggestion should hardly receive serious consideration.

That the great battles of the future will be fought on the Pacific is a prediction that has been made by the most prominent military and political experts of the age. Society across the Pacific is still "in the making," and until order is brought out of chaos there is an ever-present danger of conflict. It does not necessarily follow that the United States should become directly involved in war with some of the yellow races in order to justify the presence of the fleet in the Pacific. The American possessions bordering on the Pacific have a shore line many times greater than those which face the Atlantic, and the fortifications of the Pacific are so woefully inferior to those of the Atlantic that comparison is impossible. We have built up a great Navy for use in preserving peace and upholding the dignity of the country. The question now before us is whether that Navy shall be permanently stationed on the Atlantic, where peace and dignity have no demand to make on its services, or whether a portion of it shall be stationed in easy call for protection of the American possessions which will be in greater or less jeopardy until order is brought out of chaos across the Pacific.

"As a menace to Japan," says the New York paper, "the presence of our warships in such force on the Pacific is unnecessary and therefore impertinent." And yet no intimation has been conveyed to Japan that this fleet is intended as a menace. But if war with Japan or the necessity of a fleet for police duty while Japan was fighting with some other nation should ever occur before completion of the Panama Canal, with this fleet on the Atlantic, it would be an impossibility to get the fleet around until it was everlastingly too late.

SHALL WE DESTROY OR IMPROVE?

A valued contributor, whose letter is printed today, writes to rebuke The Oregonian for a recent lapse into "orthodoxy." The reader may possibly recall a remark in our comment on Mr. Hamilton's economic straits to the effect that if he would look about him with some vigor God would take notice by and by and lead him to a job. Our contributor was evidently pained by this utterance. He wishes to know if it is not "a contradiction to the editor's liberalism." One gathers from this that in his opinion "liberalism" means cleaving to one side in a controversy, without regard to the merit of the other, accepting truth so far as it agrees with antecedent prejudice and rejecting it when it does not. This sort of liberalism is not unpopular, but it would take a keen casuist to discriminate it from bigotry. There is a bigotry of dissent as well as of faith, and which is the more detestable it were difficult to say. Why should not the Lord help Mr. Hamilton find a job? He has time to number the hairs of our heads and to look after the falling sparrow; surely a workman out of a job is of more account than many sparrows. Indeed the good book says he is.

Our grieved contributor, however, goes deeper into the question. He discerns in our advice to Mr. Hamilton an indication that The Oregonian has joined the great conspiracy against the humble which he declares the ministers of religion have been working out from olden times. It may or may not be true that their advice has always been "to trust in God and look to him for guidance as a remedy for every social evil," but The Oregonian was not proposing a remedy for any social evil whatever. It was attending exclusively to a particular man's individual evil. It is not likely that Mr. Hamilton could well have waited for a job until all our social questions have been answered. His need was immediate and the problem was to keep him from starving. The practical way to do this was to find him some work; and the way to find work was to look for it. Our contributor, being a socialist, no doubt believes that it is the duty of society to keep jobs on tap all the time, so that no man need look for work. This theory need not be disputed now. Even if it is correct it is not in force, and it would be foolish, would it not, for a workingman to sit down and starve because society does not do its duty by him?

After all, the case against the ministers is not so black as our contributor paints it. To be sure, they are much disposed to resolve all difficulties by advising people to cast their burdens on the Lord; but they spice this counsel with a sprinkling of common sense which ought not to be overlooked. "Trust God," they tell us; but they add in an undertone, "and keep your powder dry," which plainly shows that they themselves realize the diaphanous quality of supernatural aid in time of difficulty. The common saying of pious people concerning a man in the extremity of peril that "he had no help but God" implies that the forthcoming help was not very substantial. When a man has no help but God the chances are very strong for his going under. It is an orthodox maxim that "The Lord helps those who help themselves," and it follows that those who cannot help themselves need expect no help from above; which agrees with the facts.

The Oregonian meant nothing more terrible than this when it told Mr. Hamilton he might expect divine direction if he exerted himself vigorously in his own behalf. It was only a poetical way of telling him that he was likely to succeed. So much may be offered to our contributor as a sort of sop to Cerberus; but when he goes on to lay it down that all crimes and social evils are caused by "government, religion, marriage and education," he gives us pause. Of course if there were no such thing as government many of the acts which are now called crimes might be committed with impunity; but would that be much of a gain? Likewise, if we had no institution of marriage there could be no divorces; but again it does not appear quite certain that we should be better off. Who would take care of the children if the family and the state were to be abolished? If the state were left intact we might possibly make shift to dispense with the family, though that is doubtful enough, but with both gone the outlook would be pretty dark for newborn babes. The world as it is now organized is not a very easy home for the lame, the halt and the blind; but would their lot be improved if we should destroy the hospitals, the asylums, the systems of education and charity, which depend upon the state and the church? Law as it is administered is an extremely defective instrument of justice; but it does, after all, help the weak against the strong. It does not help them as much as it ought, and sometimes it is even perverted into an instrumentality of wrong; but upon the whole, in spite of the lawyers, the law acts for the good of mankind. Shall we abolish it, then, or improve it?

The criticism we have to make upon Mr. Goldrainer's letter is that it is destructive in spirit. He wishes the race to move backward some hundreds of thousands of years, burning its bridges and destroying all the work of the intervening ages. A wiser counsellor would urge mankind to keep the good it has won from time and toil while it eliminates the bad which still persists. We may grant without difficulty that all our institutions are human and therefore imperfect; but the sensible course seems to be to make them perfect if we can, certainly not to bring them down in common ruin about our ears.

To but few men does the turn of the wheel of fortune bring such vicissitudes and duties as fell to the lot of the late Colonel Crooks, who died in this city Tuesday. After a notable career as an Indian fighter in the Middle West, where he materially aided in blazing the trail for civilization, he became one of the pioneer railroad builders of the country which he made safe for the white settlers. During his long and varied career as a railroad man he was at different times associated with nearly every prominent railroad in the West, and to the end of his life he enjoyed the friendship and confidence of the greatest railroad men in the United States. During his ten years' residence in Portland Colonel Crooks formed a wide acquaintance and his death will be sincerely regretted by all who knew him. He acted well the parts allotted him in life, and has left a vacancy in the Harriman service that will not easily be filled.

The effect of the recent financial stringency is not reflected in the movement of domestic exports for the month of November. An advance statement from the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor shows a total for the month of $122,772,997, compared with $104,943,802 for the same month last year. The commodities included in these figures were breadstuffs, livestock, meat, cotton and oils. For the eleven months ending November 30 the total exports of these commodities show a valuation of $841,279,846, a gain of $56,000,000 over the same period last year, one-half of which was made in wheat alone. On account of the high prices and heavy shipments going forward this month, the percentage of increase will undoubtedly be greater than for November.

Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane will investigate the Pullman Car Company. A San Francisco dispatch bringing the news says that the company will demur on the ground that the Commission lacks jurisdiction. The unfortunate individuals who are compelled to pay a considerable portion of the cost of a Pullman car for the privilege of riding in it, and in addition must make up any deficit in the porter's salary, will appreciate the Pullman position. No one has jurisdiction over a Pullman car except the Pullman stockholders and the porter. Mr. Lane will now find his limitations.

It is generally acknowledged that schoolteachers are in a measure dwarfed mentally because of constant association with children and little association with the world of affairs. Yet nearly every school district resents any activity of the teacher in local public questions or politics. Perhaps if teachers were invited to take an active part in public discussions they would be more effective in the schoolroom.

No danger of incurring popular displeasure attaches to the Interstate Commerce Commission's primary effort to regulate Pullman cars. If, as a sanitary measure, the upper berth should be abolished, thus providing reasonable breathing space, the traveling public will hold special thanksgiving service.

While that funny Chinaman in San Francisco may make us laugh when he ridicules our sacred marriage customs, he isn't telling us anything about them we don't already know.

Pursuing its invariable conservative policy, the London Times waited until the fleet started before it sanctioned the President's ordering the battleships to the Pacific.

Certainly the boycotted stove company will not object to first-page advertisements in every morning newspaper in the country.

In forbidding Sunday use of the telephone, Idaho seems to have pushed blue laws one notch too far.

Assuming that Senator Martin Saxe is in earnest, he will do well to start a publicity burean at once.

Third Term—Republican Institutions.

New York World.

In spite of Mr. Roosevelt's emphatic declaration, it is by no means certain that the voters will take him at his word. Senator Hansbrough remarks that "the interests of the Republican party and the entire country may be paramount to the President's personal wishes in the matter." If the people really want Mr. Roosevelt they are likely to take him, tradition or no tradition.

Whether the custom on which Mr. Roosevelt bases his refusal is "wise" or not depends entirely upon circumstances. If the country were in the midst of a great war or a great social and economic unheaval it might be the extreme of unwisdom to change Presidents. There may be times when every argument that can be advanced in favor of a second term will apply with equal force to a third term.

Our own opinion is that if the 16,000,000 voters, supported by the Constitution, by Congress and by the United States Supreme Court, and in complete control of all the machinery of nomination and election, cannot without the assistance of an "unwritten law" protect republican institutions from Presidential usurpation, the country will never be saved by myths and tradition.

Foxes Prosper by Electricity.

Trenton (N. J.) Dispatch.

Electricity on the third rail near Clayton, N. J., has killed so many foxhounds that foxes there are multiplying rapidly and destroying rabbits in large numbers. The county pays $3 bounty for every fox killed.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S RENUNCIATION.

Newspaper Comment on President's Statement to the Electorate. Now Dawns the Hughes Boom.

Baltimore Sun.

With Roosevelt out of the way, the Hughes boom will almost immediately assume formidable proportions.

Reassures a Cynical Generation.

New York Sun.

The reiterated pledge of December 11, 1907, is no more explicit, no more positive, no more praiseworthy, than was the first, but perhaps it is more important in the view of a cynical generation because it brings the statement of intentions down to date.

A Case of "I Told You So."

New York Herald.

Those who from the first have had full faith in the sincerity of Mr. Roosevelt's declaration that he would not accept a nomination will now say, "Why, of course!" On the other hand, those who have argued that he could not decline if the convention should overwhelmingly demand him as a candidate will remark, "We shall see!" And there you are!

The Test Just Before Convention.

New York American.

Nobody believes that Mr. Roosevelt will not take an eager interest in the fight, and do his utmost to name the man who is to carry out his policies. But whether his support will benefit his proteges because of his popularity, or will injure them because of his unpopularity, is a thing that only the test of the preconvention months can determine.

No Different Statement Possible.

New York Times.

Mr. Roosevelt's statement is what those who respected him most and knew him best expected him to make. No different statement was possible. It cannot be said that Mr. Roosevelt's withdrawal really clears the atmosphere. We hazard the guess, however, that to no two men in the country has it brought more joy than to Mr. Bryan and Speaker Cannon. Both are optimists.

True to His Every Promise.

Baltimore American.

Some of the President's most virulent critics and detractors will, doubtless, assert that he was forced from the field by the attacks made upon him and his policies. This the American people cannot believe, but, on the contrary, will regard his decision as another great proof of his manliness, his straightforwardness, and his determination to keep every pledge and be true to every promise.

Begin to Hurrah for Taft, Or——

New York Evening Post.

Mr. Roosevelt gave it to be understood that the contest for the succession is to be entirely free. Only, woe be to that man who ventures to have a choice different from the Administration's! Nothing else can be meant by Mr. Roosevelt's statement that there must now be "a lineup." Those who support his policies must at once begin to hurrah for Taft, those who oppose them, must get "behind" some other candidate.

Can the Roosevelt Tide Be Stopped?

New York World.

So far as words go, President Roosevelt could not take a more positive stand. The political activity of close friends has helped him to accelerate the movement to re-elect him. At this late day can he stop it? Can he turn back the tide? Suppose the Roosevelt shouters, as Governor Hoch, of Kansas, has threatened, ride over the convention like a herd of Texas steers? Will he still decline? Will he be able to decline?

Crystallization for New Candidate.

New York Mail.

The President's reiterated pledge not to stand again is likely to bring about conditions somewhat similar to those of 1888. Then Blaine's popularity and prestige had operated to embarrass other candidacies, as the President's popularity and prestige had operated until his announcement. At this moment the Republican party presents again the aspect of a council rather than of a well-disciplined army following a masterful leader. There is to be a new plebiscite—an initiative and referendum of Republican sentiment.

Take the President at His Word.

New York Globe.

Members of the bread and butter brigade, who fear, for their larders if the White House has a different occupant, may endeavor to keep up the third-term clatter; they may be assisted by a few frenzied persons with whom Rooseveltitis has become a chronic disease; but the overwhelming disposition of the country will be to take the President at his word. The direction in which opinion is drifting is indicated by the fact that Secretary Taft is conceded to be the leading candidate. His strength is diffused and National, whereas that of other candidates is primarily local.

Has Mr. Cortelyou Been Smoked Out?

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

It had become necessary for Mr. Roosevelt to impale the third-term folly so that it could no longer wriggle, if he would protect adequately his own good name for square dealing with the American people, and in doing this the question of time was merely incidental. We are now regaled with the story, soberly put forth by the Washington corps of information seekers, that Mr. Cortelyou, like a Macchiavelli, has been plotting against Mr. Roosevelt's choice for the Presidential succession and seeking to gain the Presidency of the United States for himself. This, and nothing else, we are told, was the immediate cause of the President's announcement. The astute Cortelyou had been overreaching his master. Suddenly the master awakes to the situation.

Hobson in the House.

Washington Letter to the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"That bald head on Hobson is rather remarkable for a man so young," said a member of the House today as he watched the hero of the Merrimac episode flitting around on the democratic side of the chamber. "There are only a few stragglers left on top." "True enough," answered another, "but each of those strands represents a battleship and that frown he is pulling off bodes hell and bowwows for Japan—if you let him tell it."

What Success is in Corvallis.

Corvallis Gazette.

If a man has continued in business for five or ten years and has simply made a living, he has not been a successful business man.

"A FEW ON FAIRBANKS."

The Fairbanks sounder keeps platitudinizing at the same old speed, in spite of the "28" signal from all the keys on the line.—Indianapolis Sun.

The New York Times thinks the cocktail incident in no wise affected the Fairbanks boom. Is this a knock or a boost?—Washington Herald.

We are patiently waiting for an explanation of the failure of Brother Murat Halstead to have a history of the Fairbanks cocktail on the market.—Houston Post.

The rate at which Vice-President Fairbanks keeps plugging away at his boom illustrates the lasting verity of the "triumph of hope over experience."—Atlanta Constitution.

"There are no humorists in this country," insists a Chicago professor. He probably never noticed how funny Fairbanks is without trying.—Detroit News.

AND YET THIS BANK FAILED.

Showing What May be Done by Persistent and Deadly Rumor.

Atchison (Kan.) Globe.

What a wonderful financial institution the bank of Commerce of Kansas City, which closed its doors yesterday morning, has been! Its immensity and the integrity of its officials are shown in the manner in which it has been conducted during the last six weeks. In that time it reduced its deposits $19,000,000, reduced its loans $3,500,000, cut down its cash resources $11,750,000 and sold $2,000,000 of high-grade bonds. A week ago Monday a representative of an Eastern banking publication was in Atchison, and spoke of the Bank of Commerce. He said he asked Dr. Woods, its president, how much money it had paid out since the financial trouble started. "Ten millions, and we are prepared to pay out as much more," was the reply he received. Atchison bankers thought that Dr. Woods' statement was a bluff, but it has been shown that he told the truth. An Atchison man, who was a clerk in the Bank of Commerce a few years ago, said that, at that time, it was a depository for 6000 banks, most of which were located in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Two years ago an Atchison banker visited the Bank of Commerce just at the noon hour, as the force was leaving for dinner. A small army marched out and one of the officials told the Atchison man that there were 257 persons on their pay-roll. The Commerce trust company, a side issue of the Bank of Commerce, is still in as good condition as any other bank in Kansas City. Had the officers of the Bank of Commerce meant to be dishonest, they would have taken the Commerce Trust Company down with them. Had they meant to be crooked they would have closed their doors while their vaults were full of money. The Kansas City Star admits that no institution was more willing to help things that helped Kansas City than the Bank of Commerce. We hope its affairs can soon be straightened out so that it can do business again, for it is not only a very useful institution to Kansas City, but to the entire Missouri Valley.

EVERYONE HELPS HIMSELF.

Then He May Be Sure That God Will Help Him.

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 15.—(To the Editor.)—In your Sunday editorial "Advice to H. Hamilton" you say: "Somewhere there is a victory for you, and if you strive hard enough, by and by God will take notice and show you where it is." Is this "orthodoxy" a contradiction to the editor's "Liberalism"? It is the same advice we always hear from every minister to trust in God and look to him and Jesus for guidance as a remedy for social evils.

Our economic system, the way the necessaries of life are made and exchanged, Government, religion, marriage and education are man-made institutions, and the evils of our present society, poverty, intemperance, divorce, race suicide and all ruin are inherent in them. Why should man look to a God for relief and place all crime upon his shoulders? Is it not far better if man would recognize his own responsibility? The ministers preach this doctrine to tickle the fancy of the men of wealth, who pay their salaries, and also in part because they fear to study the economic question lest it might conflict with old conservative religious ideas. The progress of society, the elimination of social evils, depend entirely upon the individual man and woman. They must recognize their own responsibility and duty and this can only come about through self-education.

Let every man and woman lay aside the Bible and the time that they spend in church; let them stay at home and read such books as Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," or Vail's "Modern Socialism." By doing so his conservative religious ideas will leave him. He will recognize his responsibility and duty, and have a higher conception of morality and as such become a force in the social evolution of society.

As his dependence and fear of God leave him, that of love and reverence takes its place. He will then be virtuous, not for the sake of a reward in heaven, but for the pleasure that virtue brings with it. If every church member would follow this advice the pews would soon be empty and the minister in order to earn his salary would be compelled to teach those doctrines in harmony with the progress of society.

Whether there is a God or not is not in question. The progress of society and the elimination of social evils depend upon the individual discarding the thought of dependence and guidance of a God and the recognition of his own responsibility and duty, and this can only come about through self-education.

JOHN A. GOLDRAINER.

His Three-Base Hit Wins Wife.

Worcester (Mass.) Dispatch in New York Sun.

Through a three-base hit made while he was a member of a baseball team, an acquaintance sprang up between Harold Heald, of Dorchester, and Miss Birdie von Schoope, of Somerville, Mass., and now they are on their honeymoon. In a game of ball a year ago, at which the bride was an interested spectator, Heald was at the bat at a critical point in the game. She called from the grand stand that if he made a hit he could wear her colors home. Heald grasped the bat with a firmer clutch and sent the ball sailing out for three bases.

John D.'s New $25,000 Garage.

New York World.

John D. Rockefeller has completed a garage at his Pocantico Hills estate that is said to be the finest private one in the country. The garage is 100 feet square and has a cement floor and the walls are of white tile. All floors are of hard wood. In the rear of the garage is a workroom, and on the second floor are sleeping rooms for chauffeurs, a bathroom and a large reading-room. The garage cost $25,000.

Mr. Rockefeller intends to stay at Pocantico Hills until the snow flies, when he will leave for the South, where he expects to play much golf during the Winter.

HUMOR FROM ENGLAND.

He was telling her about the members of his cricket team.

"Now there's Brown," said he. "In a few weeks' time he'll be our best man."

"Oh, Jack," she gushed, "what a nice way to ask me!"—Weekly Telegraph.

A doctor, at the request of one of his patients, a wealthy woman who was recovering from a serious illness, allowed her to eat an egg after a long course of liquid food. She ate it with a mingled air of contempt and relish, and as the nurse removed the plate, said:

"Doctor, an egg is a delicious thing. What a pity it is so common among the poor."—Cassell's Saturday Journal.

Rich Uncle Ebenezer—So you are named after me, are you?

Small Nephew—Yes, Ma said it was too bad, but we needed the money.—London Opinion.

Doctor—Your husband will be all right now.

Wife—What do you mean? You told me he couldn't live a fortnight ago.

"Well, I'm going to cure him. Surely you are glad."

"Puts me in a bit of a hole. I've been and sold all his clothes to pay for his funeral."—Weekly Telegraph.

A little girl was asked to write an essay on wild beasts. She went on to name them. "Long ago," she added, "wild beasts roamed about England. The only wild beasts in this country now are in the Theological gardens."—Weekly Telegraph.

SILHOUETTES

By Arthur A. Greene.

There was a tumult of blaring brass and thundering drums—the tempestuous riot of martial acclaim. Higher and louder the crescendo mounted until the heart fairly shouted in exultation at the glory of sound. The familiar precincts of the room fell away and, strained to the tension where imagination becomes madness, we saw a triumph sweeping along the Appian Way. Some victorious Caesar was returning to Rome with a train of captives at his chariot wheels. Banners were upon the breeze and the eagles—the eagles were aloft. The sun glinted on burnished armor and the sound of the legions marching and the multitudes cheering was as the rushing of a mighty wind. Those Latins were putting their blood into it and the music of the band was telling brave things. In very mercy then the ultimate was reached—there was a cataclysm—and the leader, wild-visaged and exausted, his electric black hair disheveled, stood a moment, and bowed to a normally sane and maccaroon-eating audience which was now shrieking its approval with the abandon of the gallery at an Empire matinee.

There was eerie wailing of the reeds; uncanny murmurs and vague, indefinite, complaining notes—a ghostly symphony, but caressing, appealing—whispers soft and soul-soothing as angels' sighs. The spirits of forgotten melodies seemed holding a love-tryst in the Grove Elysia. It was evening and the rising moon was shimmering a lotus-bordered river. The night wind rustling the palm branches brought a chill of minor refrain and then a swan floated upon the bosom of the waters and sang.

Just then I woke up and discovered that I'd been lying on my back and that cursed phonograph on our floor was chewing away at "He's a Cousin of Mine."

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Uncle Joe Cannon acts like a man standing pat on a full House.

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The way of the transgressor is hard, probably because it is paved with good intentions.

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The figures show that more married men than bachelors commit suicide. Why shouldn't they?

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Contentment is a half-brother to laziness.

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I have just discovered statistics showing that in France there is one drinking shop for every 80 of the population. Up to this time I had supposed Walla Walla held the record.

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The fashionable New York hostleries have decided to supply chaperons for all unattended women guests. Without wishing to be impertinent I'd like to suggest the adoption of this plan by Portland's family hotels.

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Those who do not believe in a future state receive a severe jolt from the announcement that ex-Senator William V. Allen, of Nebraska, has entered the 1908 Presidential race.

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Don't look the other way and try to ignore the Salvation Army's Christmas pots on the street corners. Remember somebody's mother may go hungry on the day of gift-giving.

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Many people pride themselves on their frankness who are merely rude.

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Small kindnesses multiply faster than guinea pigs.

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At Chrisimas time a man is justified in looking a gift cigar in the mouth.

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These are the days when ma and the kids are buying pop a lot of fool things that he doesn't need and having them charged to him. Oh, a joy for pop is the holiday season.

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Every year I seem to see more sprigs of rue in the Christmas wreaths.

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Let us hope that Senator Bourne will not prove to be Mr. Roosevelt's Burchard.

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I'll bet Judge Landis won't get a bag of candy on Rockefeller's Sunday school Christmas tree.

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Many people don't get what they pray for because they spend so much time on their knees that their feet go to sleep.

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Temperance is a good thing until it becomes intemperate.

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Every time I hear a great bass, like Eugene Cowles, sing I shudder to think how that man must snore.

Uncertainty.

There was a young husband in Drain,
Coming home late one night through the rain;
Found a bird at his door,
And became very sore
For he feared both a stork and a crane.

Figure This Out in Cigarettes.

Philadelphia (Pa.) Dispatch.

Lewis Staples, of Sayre, Pa., aged 17, died of Bright's disease, having smoked 50 cigarettes a day since he was 9 years old.

A FEW SQUIBS.

Algy—My dear fellah, how can you say that prices of necessities are getting higher? Why, personally I know of a touring car that costs a thousand dollars less than it did a year ago.—Puck.

Visitor to Dublin—What is the population here? Jarvey (somewhat out of his depth)—Well, sor, ye niver can tell; it's never twice the same. There's always more on market day.—Punch.

Grateful mother—Oh, are you the noble young man who rescued my daughter from a watery grave? Noble young man (who is truly modest—Yes, madam; but I assure you I only did it from a sense of duty.—Judge.

"I'm afraid," said the anxious mother, "your new gown will be too expensive to please your husband." "Oh," rejoined the young wife, "I didn't get it to please him. I got it to worry other women."—Chicago Daily News.

Mrs. de Style—I suppose your daughter is to have her coming-out ball very soon, isn't she, Mrs. Rose Quyck—Oh, dear no. My daughter has another year at school before becoming a dilitante, and will not make her debris until next season.—Judge.

Katie (describing a visit to "Uncle Tom's Cabin")—Yes, an' Eliza she carried de kid over real ice. Mamie (with recollections of the Summer—Gee; no wonder de billboards said it was a twenty t'ousand dollar perduction.—Puck.

"Are you beginning early Christmas shopping yet, Mrs. Smith?" "No; I generally do mine at the last minute. You see, I am kept so busy writing articles and giving talks on how to spare the overworked clerks.—Baltimore American.