

land owner is no more justifiable than to devise means to rob him of his movable goods.

BY DIVINE THRUSTING ON. The phrase is Shakespeare's. It means simply that there is a divinity within us, which moves us to action, but which, under free will, is our privilege and duty to direct for ourselves, this way or that.

THE doctrine of free will is the hardest of all metaphysical problems; yet hard and difficult only in proportion to the firmness or weakness of the individual mind that tries to deal with it. Still, it may be said that this begs the question. For if the mind is weak, then free will is out of the question. It was the woman that misled the man. Whiskey was responsible for his fall.

Such pleas are entered every day. But they are very contemptible. Most of those who plead "weakness" for their faults and crimes are themselves responsible for that weakness. And all must be held responsible. Man is nothing at all, if not superior to all "the mortal instruments" that he would blame for his lapses or his downfall.

It is a false philosophy to assume that there can be more free will in human conduct than chance in physical affairs, and that by predetermined necessity there is a fixed quantity of crime in every society, which the struggles of the individual will not be able to change. Example and habit do, indeed, go far; yet there always is, in reserve, some quantity of choice. Also every principle of virtue would soon disappear from the world.

There is no basis for human law except in the moral order. This moral order must be assumed. It is suggested by Nature and confirmed by reason and experience. The laws of had actions, even more than that of good, confirms and supports the moral law.

Human sympathy makes allowance for apparent necessity, which seems to drive on toward evil. But human laws cannot. Optimism and alcohol cannot. There are indelible marks and proofs of a morally constituted world, moving towards righteous ends. Still it is true that nowhere within us or out of us do we find the fulfillment of this idea, but only, as Martineau says, "the incipient and often baffled tentatives for realizing it by partial approximation." We are here in the very center of the doctrine of determinism and free will, which in one form or another, through all ages, has fascinated the human mind. It has been especially the problem of Christian theology; and a great writer has truly said that "in Western Christendom it is the Catholic Church alone, especially in its Dominican and Jesuit schools, that has saved any ability in man to obey the will of God, while the Augustinian theology, whether sheltered in Port Royal, or breaking forth into branches of the Protestant Reformation, has merged all human power in Divine grace and foreordination." Hence the celebrated Provincial Letters of Pascal, with all their acerbity and willful blindness, standing their general service in clearing up theological subtleties, were written on the wrong side of the question.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT TAFT. Mr. John C. Young is correct in his statement that the vote of Oregon in the National Republican Convention at Chicago, being less than 1 per cent of the total, will have small influence in its proceedings. It would appear, then, to be of no great importance as to whether Oregon shall send to Chicago an instructed or uninstructed delegation. The Taft men in Oregon will want a Taft delegation because they desire to be on the Taft "bandwagon," while the opponents of Mr. Taft, and even those friendly to him, desire to be on the Roosevelt "bandwagon." Mr. Taft, however, will want to leave the delegates' hands untried, so that the vote of Oregon may be trafficked wherever it will "do the most good."

This is about the situation as The Oregonian understands it. Yet it would seem that there is an unnecessary lack of information as to the real strength of Mr. Taft. The Oregonian prints today a letter from Mr. Walter Wellman, the well-known correspondent, which it believes gives the truth as to the various state delegations to the Chicago convention as nearly as it may be given by anybody at this time. Mr. Wellman thinks that Mr. Taft will have enough, or very nearly enough, instructed delegates to nominate him, and his resources among the uninstructed delegates seem to guarantee absolutely his success. This is, of course, merely an opinion from a well-informed newspaper correspondent.

There is another opinion, but it is of record, that Mr. Taft has instructed for him at this time 400 out of the necessary 491 delegates. He needs, therefore, about 91 more. To get them he must depend on the uninstructed delegates, numbering about 90. The delegates of Mr. Taft, chosen, which are somewhat less than 200. In this latter number are Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho, all unquestionably for Taft. Among the uninstructed delegations are states like Massachusetts, where the state convention by a resolution recognized the fact that its delegation was largely for Taft, but distinctly refrained from instructing them in deference to time-honored precedent in that state. The Taft managers claim that nearly 100 of the uninstructed delegates so far elected have publicly announced themselves for the Ohio candidate. There is no question that their contention is well founded on fact.

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Certainly boys are more garrulous than old men, more given to boasting and all sorts of gibberish. The gift of beauty may be hereditary in women, but to young men the gift of gab is much more deadly. Beauty may have slain its thousands, but gab has slain its tens of thousands. Which sex is the more subject to this lethal disorder it would be difficult to decide. There is a common report that women's tongues are more agile than men's and their brains less active, but brought face to face with cold facts, this report loses a good deal of its credibility. It is extremely doubtful whether a sewing bee or a mission meeting runs to gossip more than a beer party in a corner saloon does. In both sexes and at all times of life, when people have nothing to do, they will talk. Wordsworth's boy whistled as he went for want of thought, and among Goldsmith's party under the hawthorn the loud laugh bespoke the vacant mind, but as a rule it is the active tongue that bespeaks the vacant mind. When a man finds himself indisposed to think, he gets on his feet and makes a speech. We remember an erudite and upright judge, now in Paradise, who was much invited to dinners, funerals and other diverting scenes, but before promising to go he would always ask warily, "Are there to be any speeches?" If there were he would resolutely decline. Long subjection to the society of lawyers had filled him with a preternatural horror of speeches. This judge passed away in the prime of life. Perhaps if he had lived to old age he might in his decline have fallen into the vice of garriulity. He might possibly have acquired the habit of oratory, just as some aged men launch a speech, but speakable practices, but we think not. As he advanced in years his mind seemed to grow more powerful and his intelligence more alert. The common belief that the approach of old age impairs one's useful faculties was not true in his case, nor do we believe it is true in general. Nature has so constructed us that we may enjoy life to the end, unless in youth we have squandered our inheritance of vitality. It seems to be the plan of Providence that a human being should grow more valuable as he grows old, although we often thwart the Almighty by our follies.

In his remarkable novel, "Old Wives for New," David Graham Phillips preaches a little sermon upon the sinfulness of meeting old age more than half way. In his opinion it is our duty to resist the invader at every point and only yield at the last moment. When all that has been battered down and the last bullet fired by Taft, but distinctly refrained from instructing them in deference to time-honored precedent in that state. The Taft managers claim that nearly 100 of the uninstructed delegates so far elected have publicly announced themselves for the Ohio candidate. There is no question that their contention is well founded on fact.

There is another condition quite helpful to Mr. Taft that would in a close contest greatly aid in turning the issue in his favor. He is unquestionably the more highly respected of the important delegations instructed for "favorite sons" like Cannon and Hughes. It is notorious that the New York delegation, nominally for Hughes, is very largely in the hands of Taft's friends. With Illinois, too, the situation is very much the same. When these delegations abandon the candidates of their respective states, if they ever get a chance to abandon them, where are they going? To Taft undoubtedly, unless meanwhile the long-anticipated Roosevelt stampede shall have occurred and Mr. Roosevelt shall have been nominated. But the

stampede that everybody expects rarely or never occurs. For the element of surprise is missing and the delegates are completely fortified against it. The Roosevelt stampede suffers from too much advance advertising.

It is impossible to avoid the conclusion, then, that Mr. Taft today has the nomination for President in his own hands. That he will, in all probability, be nominated on the first ballot is obvious to all careful and impartial observers. Whatever action the state and Congressional conventions take next Thursday should, therefore, be taken advisedly.

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