

# THE COLLEGE MAN A BORE

MARY GREER CONKLIN SAYS GRADUATES ARE DEFICIENT.

## THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO TALK

And the Co-ed is as Bad as Her Masculine Associate, Asserts the Author of a Book on "Conversation."

Below is an article from the Boston Herald by Mary Greer Conklin, who is a sister of the editor of the Tidings, B. R. Greer, the author of a book on "Conversation," which was recently published by Funk & Wagnalls, New York and Boston:

I wouldn't for the world say anything that would tend to make college girls defiant or antagonistic, but it amazes me that young aspirants for university degrees can be content to indulge their talk so continually with trivialities. Learning does much for the college-going young man or woman, but it doesn't seem to make them pleasanter to talk with than their elders of much less education, not, at least, until they get older.

Many young people who grow "like a forest oak—by neglect," are as well off conversationally, so far as the sentiment in their dialogue is concerned. Those adults who have to depend at all upon college-bred youth for their conversational society feel a void like that of a dairy farm deprived of its cows, with only the calves left.

### When a Woman is Interesting.

I am always reminded of a Punch cartoon that showed a young beauty sitting alone with a matron while the men were all gathered round a woman of 30. "I can't imagine what the men see in her! No woman is worth looking at after she is 30!" exclaimed the beauty, petulantly. "No, my dear, nor talking to before!" replied the elder woman.

Like the cock and the fox in the fable of Marie de France, college young people usually "chatter when they should be dumb, and when they ought to speak are dumb."

Prone to every conceivable conversational vice, they talk universally in the language of wags. While one cannot say that they are not well bred, they are given to the underbreeding of excess—excess in compliments, excess in adverse criticism, excess in striving after wit, excess in laughter.

### Many Are Catch-Word Fiends.

Much of the vociferous talk of college students is directed indiscriminately against their instructors, men whose mere acquaintance is a liberal education, men who, along with everything else admirable, have in them several sorts of superiority besides that of having been college students.

Undergraduates are sometimes phraseologists and catch-word fiends. Their talk often consists of the petulant sort of jocosities or pretty speeches, which make very sickly conversation. More often it is college song nonsense, tiresomely reiterated and carried to the point of buffoonery. They are splendid babblers and wagers, but conversationalists, never!

These youthful conversationalists talk so much without reflection that they seem to have lost the power of reflection. Not only that, but they usually expect their conversers to do all the listening. They do not try to entertain and interest others, but talk to gratify themselves, like children.

### Does Not Expect Much.

I don't mean to say that we ought to expect the talk of college students to abound in "freezing immunities of the pulpit," nor to be esthetic or classical, but we can expect it to be indicative of having emanated from trained minds. Certainly, the truly wise relax at times and sport in trifles, but they always talk nicely even on trivial themes. Nonsense can be delightful as easily as undelightful. Unexpected hyperbole is often witty, but stale repetitions of nonsense such as we are obliged to hear continuously do not constitute wit.

A clever and mature woman, describing the effects of a tornado, said: "As I looked out the air was quite dark with my intimate friends." Not this sort of humor and few of the proprieties and delicacies of discourse are vouchsafed immature college students.

### What is Good Conversation?

Good conversation is the nimbleness of mind to take the chance word of the accidental subject and play upon it, and make it pass from guest to guest at dinner or in the drawing room. It is the discussion of any topic whatever, from religion to fashions, and the avoidance of any

## Will Furnish Plans for Farm Buildings.

Blue-prints of plans for the construction of various farm buildings, such as barns, silos and houses, will soon be furnished to the farmers of the state by the farm mechanics department of the Oregon Agricultural College upon request. This is a new departure in the service of the college to the state.

In a recent lecture to visiting farmers, Professor W. L. Powers showed the plans and views of many farm buildings now in use at the college or experiment stations or on the farms of progressive Oregonians.

The septic tank, standard ventilation system of barns, model farm houses and tool houses were shown and explained. The reasons and advantages of substituting the two-inch framing instead of the old heavy joist framing were given, and plans and models of the tool house at the Harney experiment station were shown. A workshop for the farm, a poultry colony house such as in use at the college, the trap nest, all these were explained in detail.

Plans of individual hog houses costing about \$5 for materials and labor, and for the consolidated hog house on the college stock farm, which cost \$350, or about \$30 a pen, were thrown on the screen.

A new stave silo has just been erected for the dairy barns, and this, too, was shown and a detailed statement of the cost given. The silo is 17x28 feet, and the cement foundation cost \$18.40, the lumber for walls \$78.10, for roof and chute \$16.55, and the hardware \$35.94, making a total cost of \$148.99. As 75 tons of feed were weighed into the silo, the cost of construction was about \$2 a ton capacity. The farmer, Professor Powers said, should be able to get the lumber and labor cheaper.

"In this country, the only alternative of the stave silo is the concrete silo, for performance," said Professor Powers. He then showed plans of such structures, and of dairy barns, including the model on the state fair grounds at Salem. Sanitary cow stanchions and similar arrangements for the health and comfort of farm animals were shown on the screen. One of the best barns in the state, that of Senator Dobbins at Enterprise, was portrayed, together with the plans of buildings erected in the past.

### Selling Yourself an Automobile.

James Montgomery Flagg writes an amusing sketch about buying an automobile in the January American Magazine. Following is an extract: "You and Polly are given a demonstration.

"The psychology of the trade starts psyching at the moment you take your seat in the car. The instant the wheels turn you are a goner!

"You are now the best salesman they have! You sell yourself the car! You root for that car as if it were something you had invented yourself.

"An awful clattering underneath your feet, that in later years of experience would clearly indicate frazzled bearings, you are now eager to have explained away as nothing but the sweet purr of perfect mechanism.

"You sit on the edge of the seat, nerves taut, inwardly challenging these men to say anything nasty about their own goods. Their own? Yours!

"You clutch the leather arm-rests with the fierce joy of ownership, and cry 'Gee some boat!'

"We could a-done that hill just as easy on high!" grins the wicked demonstrator as he looks around for your approval.

"When can I have it?" you hiss, hardly recognizing your own voice.

"By the way," says the salesman, doubtfully, to the wicked demonstrator, "this car isn't sold, is it?"

"Oh, my God!"

"Oh, no, it's all right—I was thinking of that 1911 runabout of Johnson's—no, it's all right!"

"Oh!"

"You nearly swallowed your Adam's apple."

### How to Bankrupt the Doctors.

A prominent New York physician says: "If it were not for the thin stockings and thin-soled shoes worn by women the doctors would probably be bankrupt." When you contract a cold do not wait for it to develop into pneumonia, but treat it at once. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is intended especially for coughs and colds, and has won a wide reputation by its cures of these diseases. It is most effectual and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by Poley's Drug Store.

Most of the coca imported into the United States is produced in the West Indies and Central and South America.

Juice from a freshly cut white potato, frequently applied, often will remove an obstinate wart.

phase of any subject which might stir the irascible talker to controversy.

# CHRISTMAS DAY IN BETHLEHEM.

At this season of the year probably no city of the ancient world presents a more picturesque or attractive aspect than Bethlehem, whose population is many times multiplied by the presence of a vast army of pilgrims from every part of the globe. Mecca, in the height of the great annual Moslem influx, or Hurdwar, in upper India, at the season of the sacred festival, may have much greater but they cannot be said to have more devout or more cosmopolitan crowds than those that flock to the city of David in the Christmas week. Shaped wonderfully like a crescent, yet the only thoroughly Christian town in all Syria, Bethlehem puts on its gayest garb as Christmas approaches. At all times a pretty and attractive place, it is then a thousand-fold more so. The thrifty townspeople, their handsome wives and dark eyed daughters, prepare for the festivities weeks in advance and are ready to welcome the first arrivals.

No words can adequately describe the grandeur of the Christmas services at the Church of the Nativity, which is the center of interest for the pilgrims. These services are kept up the entire week. On the way to church the visitors are beset by peddlers, who insist on pushing under their very noses little ornaments of olive wood and mother-of-pearl. The Church of the Nativity is one of the oldest structures in existence, and, although it has been repeatedly repaired, it still retains much of its original form and character. In the side aisles at different altars priests chant the service in tones that swell and die amid the tall columns that support the roof.

At the shrines groups of pilgrims kneel in reverent adoration, while still other groups are guided around the church by monks, who point out the rich relics and sacred places, the most venerated of all being the shrine of the manger, beneath the church, which, it is claimed, incloses the actual birthplace of the Saviour. During the Christmas festivities this manger shrine is resorted to by great multitudes, who crowd each other in their pious eagerness to kiss the marble slab on the floor with a silver star in the center.

So fervid and enthusiastic are these worshippers that the marble slab has been repeatedly kissed away in places, rendering a new slab necessary. The same experience has occurred with the stone covering of the crypt in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jeru-

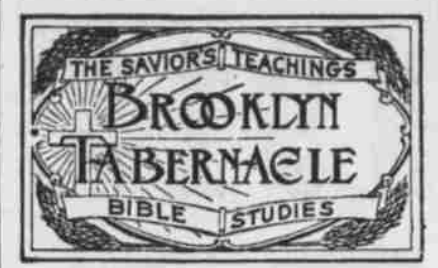


MARKET PLACE IN BETHLEHEM ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

salem, which has had to be renewed several times in consequence of its outer surface being literally kissed away by pious devotees. The tradition is that Christ was once laid in this manger. A few feet distant is the chapel of the Magi, where the wise men of old, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, came worshipping with rare gifts.

A subdued, rich light is diffused throughout the grotto by the softly glowing lamps over the star, and the swinging censers lend an agreeable odor to an otherwise close and musty atmosphere. All worldly thoughts are banished as the kneeling pilgrims listen spellbound to the melodious chant of the sacred office or the full, sturdy, noble singing of the grand looking, bearded priests. The low roof, the "living rock," the censers, the music, the lights, all seem to dissolve, and in their stead there appear to the moist eyes of the adoring pilgrims the manger cradle with the babe, the Virgin mother and Joseph, the mean surroundings, the oxen and their litter of straw and the gentle, wondering sheep.

The Christmas festivities, however, are not confined to the Church of the Nativity. The week is a general festival in the town and a season of financial harvest for its citizens. Like all orientals, they are thrifty to avariciousness, and the sight of the splendid gifts that are brought year after year to the church and especially the Grotto chapel, by strangers from afar widely excite their cupidty. Among those thousands that are living temporarily in tents, or it may be, quartered in the more comfortable convent, there are many rich who can be easily persuaded into generosity when under the supernatural influence that seems to pervade everything at Bethlehem.—Philadelphia Record.



## KNOW OF THE DOCTRINE. Dec. 29.

"If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."—John vii, 17.

THE word doctrine seems to be offensive to the majority of Christians. Each denomination realizes that its doctrines are undefendable. Hence by mutual consent Christians seem disposed to ignore doctrines, believing that the matter never will be clear to anybody. All this is a mistake; the doctrines of Christ, as presented by the Great Teacher and His Apostles, were a great Message, of which none were ashamed. The difficulty is that we gradually fell away from those doctrines into bondage to human traditions and creeds. We need the doctrines of Christ and the Apostles to break down our creed fences, which have separated God's people into various denominational folds, contrary to the Divine arrangement; for God has but one fold for all His "sheep" of this Age.

If as God's people we put away sectarianism and the creeds of our forefathers, and go with sincere hearts to the Lord and His Word, we shall there find the "one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father over all, and one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," and one "Church of the First-Born, whose names are written in heaven."

The Doctrines of Christ. What God's people need is to put away other gospels, other messages of hope, aside from the one which the Bible presents. Theology is one of these, Evolution another, New Theology another. These hold out a different gospel from that of Jesus and the Apostles—the one given to us for our sanctification.

The doctrines of Christ are those presented in the Bible by Jesus and the Apostles. These doctrines relate to the Church and to the world, and God's blessing for each to sin and its forgiveness; the terms of that forgiveness—the basis of that forgiveness—the death of Jesus—and the hope of that forgiveness, re-lease from Divine condemnation, fellowship with God and everlasting life through resurrection of the dead.

Someone may inquire, Why are the doctrines of Christ so misunderstood that six hundred different denominations have resulted from the differences of theory respecting them? The explanation is that, shortly after the death of the Apostles, the Adversary sowed the seeds of false doctrines, using human lips and pens in his service, through pride and ambition. The darkness became so great that we speak of the period as the "Dark Ages."

The various denominations of Christendom are evidences of honesty, perseverance and love of the Truth, because our forefathers who made these creeds were each trying to get back into the true Light. They all made the mistake, however, of holding too much to the creeds and theories of the past.

God, who foretold through the Prophets this darkness, and who has blessed and guided His children throughout it, has promised that with the End of this Age will come a great enlightenment upon His people, scattering the darkness. "The wise shall understand, but none of the wicked shall understand." We are in the dawning of this New Age, and see clearly the Divine character and Plan for human civilization.

Willeth to Do His Will. Today's study is a message from the Master's own lips. He gives us the key to a clear knowledge of His doctrines; namely, that the student must be fully consecrated to God and fully desirous of knowing His will and His Plan. In order to see the Truth, from the standpoint of Divine Revelation, we must draw near to God in the spirit of our minds, consecrated in our heart. We must will to do His will.

God's will represents actual perfection of thought, word and deed toward God and toward all mankind. This is the Divine Standard, but we are no more able to fulfill its demands than were the Jews. The best we can do is to will to do right, and to the best of our ability carry out that covenant.

But for those who have come into harmony with God through Christ, their Advocate, a provision has been made whereby all desiring to do the Divine will and manifesting endeavors so to do, are counted as righteous—as though they did the Divine will perfectly. This class are the prospective members of the Body of Christ. To those the promises of our text apply. They shall know if our Lord merely made up those teachings, or whether He was the active Agent of Jehovah.

On the threshold of a new year shall we not determine to give our hearts fully to the Lord—to do God's will? If so, we shall doubtless be enabled fully to understand the doctrines of Christ—the deep things of God, revealed to this Class by the Spirit of God.

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**JAP THEATRE.**

Spokane "Brown" Folks Have Playhouse.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 20.—Stirring incidents in Nipponese history five centuries ago are being portrayed in a series of dramas in an opera house built by Japanese of Spokane, and manned entirely by little brown folks.

Japanese in laundries, pool rooms, fish markets, restaurants, general stores and chop suey houses are greatly stirred over their dramatic venture, and Americans are attending the shows in large crowds.

The first show staged was Futabagunki, a story of war between opposing factions in Japan when the nation was divided as to seating the emperor. Seven actors, four of them women, participated. In the second act the new Japanese orchestra entered with a wild flourish. The instruments played are the sanonsen, somewhat resembling the banjo. The kettle drum and tanko take care of the tempo.

Swords of yardstick length, costumes of padded silk, wigs such as were worn five centuries ago, and other elaborate garb were worn by the Japanese players.

The new theatre has not been founded as a money-making venture, but for charitable purposes. Profits of the first series of plays will go to the relief of the poor of Japan whose homes were swept away by floods and whose families have fallen victims to the financial flurry following the sweep of the waters November 7 and 8.

The Japanese theatre has been given the name Kioi.

SUNSET MAGAZINE and Ashland Tidings one year \$2.75 to old or new subscribers. Regular price of Sunset Magazine is \$1.50 per year.

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