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ONE SOUTHERN PLANTER'S PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR THE RACE PROBLEM.

On a Mississippi plantation once lived a white man who didn't share in a belief held by some folks that the negro is good only for curses and cuffs.

He thought the black man a human being, much like himself, but not having had an equal chance.

So he set out to see how he could help to provide the missing chance.

Being a wise as well as a kind man, he knew that he couldn't expect to perform miracles or lift the world by his bootstraps or make much headway by merely giving bounty away. So he did this:

He looked around and discovered what kind of food the negroes in his neighborhood were used to eating.

They were eating the greasiest kind of "sowbelly" with corn bread containing little nourishment—a ration not varied enough to feed a sick cat.

He opened a model dairy, hiring negroes to tend it, but first patiently teaching them why he wanted them to be clean. He paid them fairly for the work they did and let them buy good dairy food at prices within their reach.

It was some time before he could get them to see the superiority of cheese and butter and clean sweet milk to the more familiar "cawn pone an' hog fat," but he was patient; he persevered. In time the results of better feeding began to show up in better and steadier work and a greater capacity for improvement.

By and by he taught a few elementary lessons in better farming, explaining the reasons for each step and offering to pay the colored brother a better wage for better work done in this better way.

Here, again, he found that the brain of the negro didn't move swiftly toward new ideas, but it was naturally imitative and responsive to kindly and just treatment. In time he had worked quite a revolution in field methods.

In a similar fashion he took up other problems of a backward race. For example, he taught the colored women why they ought to air and sun their bedding daily and shun closed windows; why it would pay them to try to make their little cabins as cozy and neat looking as possible; and how they could, by improved processes of domestic science and field work, earn enough more pay to permit them to buy prettier clothing. He encouraged the black fathers and mothers to send the pickaninies to school and did what he could to make such that there were schools to which they could go and get an education fitted to their needs.

It's a long story and we shan't prolong it. It's enough to say that this particular planter has a bright and appreciative lot of useful negroes around him, very little trouble with bad behavior among them, and as an investment his policy pays.

He isn't conscious of a race problem until he picks up a newspaper and reads of tragedy somewhere else—tragedy founded on cruelty or neglect. He doesn't see any reason for believing it would be a desirable thing if the colored race were removed from his section; for if it were he couldn't find labor to till his fields.

We suspect that there are a lot more men of this type in the south than the south gets credit for; but still not as many as would be good for the south and all concerned in its welfare.

Under the provisions of the interstate commerce law, dogs cannot be transported in railway passenger cars, even in the privacy of a compartment in a Pullman, but those who feel that they cannot be separated from their pets during the journey may ride with them in the baggage car.

A Washington state man, aged 113, has a son 86, who has a son 67; but what of the other three younger generations that should be in the story?

History in the Making

The Mexican Election.

The farce of an election in Mexico has not in the slightest changed the situation, either at home or abroad. The fact that Huerta has a congress which will do his bidding will not cause a single rebel to lay down his arms, nor will it in the slightest affect the intentions of the nations of the world. Just what action the powers of the world at large will take is unknown. While the administration at Washington is reported to have told the powers to keep hands off, it seems very unlikely that they will do so unless satisfied that President Wilson has some definite policy beyond one of drifting. Whatever one may say of the wisdom of going into Mexico to protect the lives and property of citizens who have willingly accepted the risks of the country because of the promise of big profits, it is difficult to see how this nation can stand on the Monroe doctrine as to foreign interference unless it stands to maintain order in Mexico.

Diaz as a Factor.

The center of interest, outside Huerta, is at present resting on General Felix Diaz. His return to Mexico and his enmity to Huerta are phases of a situation which is becoming tense. Diaz has resigned his position as a brigadier in Huerta's army and refuses to go to Mexico City. That he will be disposed of as Madero was seems the belief of his friends, who urge him to leave the country, but he refuses. Rumors that the elder Diaz will return to Mexico are frequent. Many who thought him a merciless dictator are beginning to realize that thus only could a shadow of peace and prosperity come to the country. Mexico has a constitution similar to that of the United States, but it has never been put fully in force, and many deny that it could be. The inordinate ambition of hundreds of men, together with the lawless life of a large class of the peasantry, makes the government by anything but force very difficult.

In the Transition State.

Mexico, like the Balkan states, Cuba and the Philippines, is in the throes of the struggle of coming up from tyranny to liberty. It is the strife to establish the government of mind over brute force. In Cuba the result is approaching success. In the Philippines some progress has been made, but in Mexico practically none at all. There seems little if any more disinterested patriotism there than half a century ago. One leader is no

more than seated in power than another strives for his place. How long it will take the people to learn not to be the tools of unscrupulous leaders on both sides is a problem. Whether they will learn statecraft faster under a man like the elder Diaz, strong enough to command respect and obedience, or through the experiences of civil war, is a problem. Meanwhile, will Europe sit by and permit it to go on indefinitely? This is the grave question facing the administration today.

Similarity of Problems.

The same trait of human nature which is prominent in the Mexican situation is also in evidence to a lesser degree in the strike situations in the United States. Within the past few weeks it has been necessary to call out troops in Michigan and in Colorado to handle strike situations. The instinct to resort to brute force to settle complicated questions of social and political economics is apparently almost as strong in so-called civilized America as in Mexico. In these instances, as in the "war" in West Virginia, there is doubtless blame on both sides. The ambitions of strike leaders and the avarice of the owners clash and the unwise workers permit themselves to be caught between them. It is a parallel case in Mexico. The tyranny of the government and the ambition of the would-be rulers clash and the people at large suffer. Will education help? Who knows? Campaigns of "education" are frequently appeals to prejudice. But till the United States can solve her own problems should she attempt to solve those of her neighbor?

California Joins in Highway.

That the Pacific Highway will be more than a name within the next year is becoming more and more apparent. Jackson county is advertising for bids for the construction of the new road over the Siskiyou and California's highway commission announces the immediate commencement of work on the Siskiyou county stretch of road. The road will deviate from the present main traveled highway, according to last reports, and will come by way of Yreka. There has been a spirited contest between Yreka and Montague for the road, but the county seat won out by paying the additional expense of the longer road. Governor Johnson promised a road to every county seat in the state out of the \$18,000,0000 bond issue and this is a part of the fulfillment of that pledge.

BUSINESS METHODS IN THE CHURCHES.

One of the more important matters considered by the Episcopal House of Deputies in session at New York city was a demand for better business methods in conducting churches. Auditing of books by expert accountants was one suggestion, uniform accounting methods was another.

Finance committees of church societies find it much easier to wait for the next wealthy parishioner to die and leave them a handsome legacy than to hustle around and finish financial years with all debts cleaned up. As a matter of fact, a parish that does not make a habit of rounding its debts up each year is not much in favor of successful business men. When they make their wills they provide for buying but very few dead horses.

As a result of this behindhand finance, the "Ladies Aid Society" becomes a factor in most parishes. By putting in a dollar's worth of material and two dollars' worth of labor, an article can be made that will sell at a church fair for about a dollar and a quarter. This revenue, thanks to the loyal faith of woman, and the whimsical lack of logic in man, is dependable, even if trifling and belittling. So most churches reckon it a fixed source of income.

Church finances are usually honorably conducted. But it takes optimism to make the annual reports look good to a business man. They usually show that more money has been borrowed at the bank. It can usually be shown that some repairs have been made, which are called "permanent improvements," and supposed to offset the enlarged debt. Every business man knows that a certain amount of improvement work has to be done to a plant every year, and should be paid out for current income.

The next Episcopal convention will hear a report on better business methods from the committee just appointed. The recommendation should have wide attention.

The governor of Iowa has set aside a fire-prevention day, urging that the citizens discuss conditions and create a sentiment against forest fires and other conflagrations.

COURAGE THAT COMMANDS RESPECT.

Senator La Follette is getting a nice lot of praise from the independent press for his stand on the tariff question. He was the only senator who claims to be a republican who had the courage to stand up and be counted. Without regard to whether we approve his support of the present tariff measure, his independent attitude is assuring. Hundreds of senators in the past have cast their vote for party measures in which they did not believe, and opposed measures originating with the opposition party that they secretly approved, advocating the party measure against their judgment that they might not become "irregular" in their party policies, and opposing in the last instance only because of the credit the opposite party would gain by reason of its fathering a beneficent measure. We are glad to note that senators are beginning to base their action on their judgment rather than on the dictum of their party. La Follette is to be commended because he had an opinion of his own and the courage to let it be known. The administration of government will be more in harmony with public need when a majority of both houses vote their sentiments instead of their party dictum.

Despondency Due to Indigestion.

It is not at all surprising that persons who have indigestion become discouraged and despondent. Here are a few words of hope and cheer for them by Mrs. Blanche Bowers, Indiana, Pa.: "For years my digestion was so poor that I could only eat the lightest foods. I tried everything that I heard of to get relief, but not until about a year ago when I saw Chamberlain's Tablets advertised and got a bottle of them, did I find the right treatment. I soon began to improve, and since taking a few bottles of them my digestion is fine." For sale by all dealers.

Secretary Lane appears to be just the kind of man long needed at the head of the interior department.

There's hope yet for the down-and-out man who can sincerely smile and be sensibly sociable.

The Home Circle

Thoughts from the Editorial Pen

What Crankiness Costs.

The following from one of our most valued exchanges certainly contains more truth than poetry and is deserving of a place in our Home Circle department:

An 18-year-old girl in New York, back from an adventuresome journey with a lad of 18 in a stolen auto, to a woman reporter who visited her in the lockup:

"It was just a picnic. We never thought of it as anything else. I understand my father says he is going to have me sent away. I don't care. I don't want to go home. The old man is so cross and cranky he gets on my nerves."

This girl was once a pretty, smiling, promising baby, father's pet and mother's joy; a baby not foredoomed to be unloving and wayward. Something between the ages of 2 to 16 happened to explain her change of character.

Without knowing in detail the family history, couldn't you pretty safely hazard a guess on the basis of that one assertion, "The old man is so cross and cranky"?

The proper influence in a home is LOVE—patient, tender, long-suffering love. It is a child's right. The child who is denied it is defrauded. Just as it takes the warm sunshine to bring out the beauty of the flower, so the soul of a child, and especially the soul of the woman-child, must have the warmth of affection, continuous and never failing, to develop the graces which make it clean and sweet.

We know not what cares, what sorrows, what aggravations, made this "old man cross and cranky." It may be we'd forgive him if we knew him. In any event, he's profoundly to be pitied, for clearly his crossness and his crankiness, robbing the daughter of the home joys which were her due, sent her to the bad.

Amidst the worries, the stress, the disappointment of life it is often hard to preserve a sweetened temper at home. But it is what the parent must do, or at least try to the limit to do, if the children are to have a fair chance.

Nature in her silent, beautiful way teaches many lessons. She does not force a moral upon us. We may drink to her loveliness and take or leave the lesson as we please. A man must have something of the child in his heart to feel the splendor of the horizon, the magnificence of the stars, the mystery of the woods, the joyous dignity of fertile sunlit meadows; and having the child's heart to feel, he will have the child's faith to see, and whatever his sorrow, nature shall heal it, whatever his perplexity nature shall solve it. Men have set their mark upon the woods and hills. They have divided the land and have said to the world, "This farm is mine," "Yonder woodland is yours," "The babbling brook and the beach-covered hillside belong to your neighbor," but the forest child of nature which chances that way without a penny in his pocket may have all the beauty and peace of this lovely landscape for the looking.

You can make home happy by bits of kindnesses and little courtesies.

In this day of cheap literature the very best of reading matter is within reach of every family. The current magazines and the best of agricultural papers may be had at a trifling cost, and these should be found in every farm home. A comfortable sitting room made warm and light should invite the children to spend their evenings by the fireside. Unless these things are furnished at home it is only natural that the young people should seek them else-

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where, and after an evening spent out amid life and gaiety the boys and girls often return to their cold and uninviting home. We believe many a boy has formed his first resolve to quit the farm when crawling into a cold bed in a cold and clammy bedroom after he has spent an evening at a party or some scene of festivity in the city or village. Give the children plenty of home comforts and make the farm fireside the brightest and most interesting place on earth and the young people will learn to love the farm and to cling to it rather than to seek ephemeral joys of a life in town.

Every man blessed with a good wife knows that a large measure of his success, usefulness and elevation is to be attributed to the companion of his choice. It is not possible for all women to be learned or to keep pace in intellectual improvement with their husbands, but they can study to gain discretion and proper control of the tongue. If they temper their speech with charity, if they cultivate loving thoughts and express them in words of kindness and sympathy, they are sure to promote a spirit of harmony and good feeling in the home and in the social circle in which they move.

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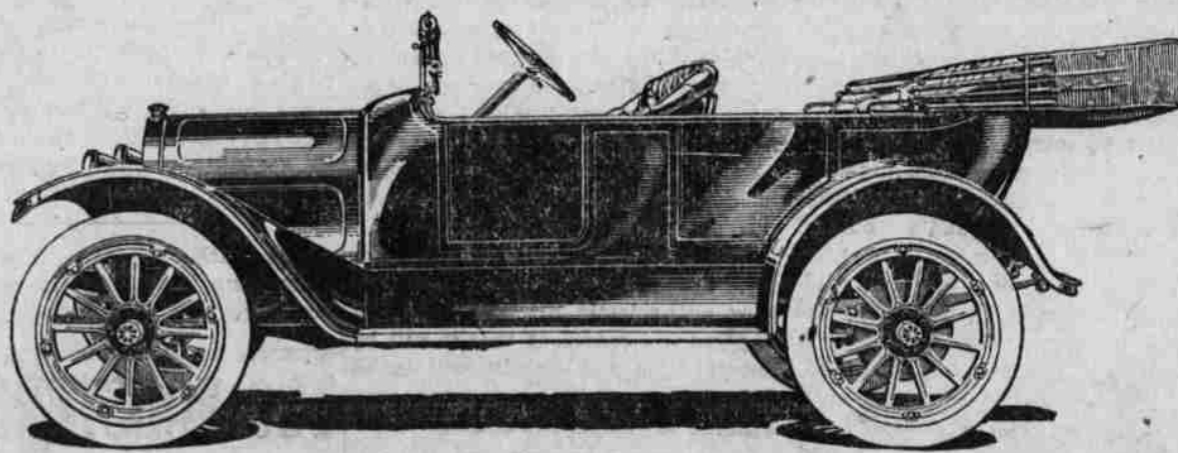
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