

Civilization, Its Foundation And Its Fundamental Elements

(By Julian P. Johnson, M. D.)

In these days, when the crash of war is heard around the world, when swelling streams of human blood are undermining all established institutions, it would appear to be an opportune moment to ask "What is Civilization? Upon what is a true civilization founded? What are the elements that go to make up that complex structure which we call civilization and which the ages have been so laboriously building?"

These would appear to be vital questions and most intensely practical. Let us see if any adequate answer to them can be found. The reader will probably have his own answer ready at hand, depending largely upon the school or system of thought in which he has been trained. If an ardent church man, he will probably declare that his particular system of religion if universally adopted, would constitute the surest foundation upon which to build a permanent civilization. If a socialist he will affirm the cooperative commonwealth of socialism to be the sine qua non of an enlightened age.

If a pessimistic materialist, he will probably throw up his hands and say there never was and never will be a true civilization.

The terrible, but beneficial unrest of the last half century has given birth to numberless theories, religious, political, philosophical. Panaceas galore have been offered. Prophets have arisen, and men and women have hurried to and fro with liberal offers to set the world right. But somehow, as yet, it doesn't seem to be set just right. And if in any Eden of the past it ever was set right, it evidently didn't stay set.

To come directly to the point let us first simply mention a few things which are not an adequate foundation to a permanent civilization:

1. Any existing church, creed or system of established religion. It is sufficient to simply point to the lamentable failure of these systems up to date. And after many centuries of trial, no one can say that they have not had their opportunity. Today millions of staunch devotees of the established religions fly at each other's throats, calling upon the same God to help to destroy each other. It is no better than the war cry of the savage. It is one with the fanatical yell of the Saracene, at the throat of the Crusader.

2. New systems of government. The dream of the socialist is grand. Plato's republic and Mopre's utopia have their beautiful modern counterparts. But they can never constitute a real foundation to a permanent order.

3. Intellectual culture. The boasted "Kultur" of some of the great belligerents today has become a sort of tragic joke. True culture doesn't destroy life. It conserves and beautifies life. To destroy is the work of the savage. Intellectual acuteness, fine mental discipline, without a moral foundation, only serve to sharpen the sword of the savage. It reduces murder to a fine art.

4. The development of science and invention. This also is no basis for a genuine civilization. But the

world is inclined today to mistake the noise and glitter of its wonderful material advancement for real progress. Science and invention are mighty instruments for good in the hands of a true civilization. But, as we see every day, they are likewise terrible instruments of destruction in the hands of a relentless moral barbarism.

What then can ever become the essence and security of a genuine and lasting civilization? The answer is: Individual moral character. This and this alone. Individual moral character is the one solid rock upon which any people may build the magnificent temple of a civilization, against which all the storms and floods of the ages may beat in vain. But as the surges of time beat upon it, it will grow more sublime and beautiful.

But right here it is of the utmost importance to understand with perfect clearness just what is meant by the term "moral character". Upon this hinges the value of this entire discussion.

Morality has been variously defined, but the definition which appeals to the writer most and which supports the central idea of this article, may be found in a book entitled "The Great Work", published by the Indo-American Book company of Chicago. It is as follows:

"Morality is the established harmonic relation which man, as an individual intelligence, sustains to the constructive principle of nature."

This will require a little elucidation. In this same book it is explained in a masterful manner how all of nature's phenomena fall under two classes and only two, ethically considered. First, those which are destructive. Second, those which are constructive. This, of course, implies two great principles in nature—a constructive principle and a destructive principle. It requires but little reflection to see that this hypothesis is sustained by facts beyond cavil or question. It is almost instantly apparent that every single thing, process, act, life or event readily aligns itself with one or the other of these two great principles. Evidently then each human being, each individual life, each personal character, stands in direct relation to one or the other of these two great principles. And this relation is an established and a harmonic relation. It runs with, belongs to, and is dominated by one or the other of these two fundamental principles.

Man cannot be related harmonically to both at the same time. Neither can any given act or process be harmonic with both; but must of necessity line up on one side or the other.

Thus the fundamental character of any man or woman stands by an immutable law of nature, or of God, in harmonic relation to one or the other of these two principles. If that character is in line with the destructive principle it is not a moral character. Its tendency is downward and not upward. It is carrying the individual toward destruction, instead of construction, toward death, instead of life.

But on the other hand if his fundamental character is in alignment with nature's constructive principle, he is then a truly moral man and his life tendency is upward, not downward; toward life, not death. And this is moral character, according to the above definition. And such established harmonic relation of the individual to nature's great constructive principle is the only genuine morality.

The application of the foregoing to the solution of the problem before us will be made in the next issue of the Tidings.

Northern California Pioneer Dead

Alonzo E. Raynes, one of the oldest pioneers of Siskiyou county, California, died Saturday at the Mount Shasta hospital in Yreka. Mr. Raynes came to California in 1849, making the trip around Cape Horn in a sailing vessel. He was an old pony express rider and engaged in many Indian fights. He was postmaster at Yreka for twenty-five years and engaged in the mercantile business for a number of years. Mr. Raynes was high in Masonic circles.

The Commercial Club requests the names and addresses of parties who are considering coming to the coast this summer. We wish to send them literature and give them a good conception of Oregon.

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The People's Forum

Value of Co-operation.

Mr. Editor: There is no time so opportune to take stock of ourselves as at the beginning of the new year. By examining ourselves we will find whether or not we are carrying any useless weights in the way of enmity or malice to our fellowman. If so, we are not in a condition to receive from our Creator that full measure of success he has in store for us. If we are carrying such weights, let's put them aside, realizing our success largely depends on the success of our fellow countrymen. They are making their living in various ways, and we can not any more develop a community one side at a time than a horse or a cow can be developed one side at a time. Our growth is bound to be affected by the strengthening or decay of the other. Therefore we must seek to eliminate factional strife by community co-operation. The country develops slower than the city because of lack of organization and co-operation among the country people.

The people of Ashland will not lose interest in the water development. Most emphatically they will not. Would a corporation that owned a \$175,000 orchard refuse to furnish means to cultivate, prune and spray because there was no immediate income to the investment? Most emphatically they would not. The people of Ashland have their money in the plant and they are going to make it a success, because every grower and producer is interested in the success of Ashland. It means a home market for his products, and a home market is safer ever and better than a foreign market. Therefore Ashland should co-operate with the producer, and the producer should co-operate with Ashland. Every faction should be satisfied, every interest cared for.

Therefore while we look forward to the time when we will need larger hotels, sanitariums and bathhouses, let us not forget our interest in what we already have. New ones will come when the capacity of these we have been exhausted, but not before.

J. H. DILL.

Fruit Association Annual Meeting.

Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of the Ashland Fruit & Produce Association that the annual meeting held today was promptly adjourned until 1 o'clock p. m. Saturday, January 8, 1916, at the City Hall, Ashland. At said meeting five directors will be elected and other business of the association done.

J. B. WARE, Secretary.

Ashland, Ore., January 1, 1916.

It

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Smith of Portland were New Year's guests in the home of Gerald Wenner, an old school friend of Mr. Smith, who attended school here several years ago. He is now employed in the Southern Pacific offices at Portland.

It

Walton shoes are the best that can be made for the money. They are now on the bargain counter at the Ashland Trading Company's big sale.

It

The O. W. R. & N. will spend \$400,000 lining the St. Johns tunnel with concrete.

I WILL GIVE \$1000

IF I FAIL TO CURE ANY CANCER OR TUMOR I trust before it POISONS deep glands or attaches to BONE Without Knife or Pain No PAY Until CURED

Any LUMP in WOMAN'S BREAST IS CANCER and always poisons deep glands and kills quickly. We refuse many who wait too long and must die. Poor cured at half price if cancer is yet small. Dr. & Mrs. Dr. CHAMLEY & CO. BOOK SENT FREE. 120-PAGE BOOK SENT FREE. 10,000 testimonials. Write to us.

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Fire Hazards On Farm or in Town

It is estimated that 50 per cent of the fire losses in our country are due to carelessness. The following article taken from the November "Tribune" is well worth reading and thinking about. Better yet, take the do's and don'ts and "paste them in your hat" so that you will see them again.

Fire prevention is not a passing fad, it is the sensible way of reducing insurance rates. It can be done. The annual per capita fire loss in the United States is \$2.51 and in Europe only 31 cents. Because of more rigid laws, better construction and less carelessness:

With the approach of winter come also the many dangers that have lain quiescent during the season when the stove, heater and the hearth have been forgotten, or have done duty as receptacles for waste paper, etc. In the latter case they will perhaps show conclusively that "wood burns" by immolating themselves, the building and contents as the result of the burning of their accumulations of paper and rags, often oily, with a maximum of recklessness and a minimum of common sense, whereby burning pieces are ejected through the flue and deposited on wooden roofs. Sometimes the stove is stuffed so full with a goodly proportion of the more than ordinarily combustible that the effects of the first application of the match, when the cold days come on suddenly, are such that the combustibles haven't time to disappear by way of the chimney, and, therefore, distribute themselves, the stove and often the "fireman" and innocent bystanders freely about the place.

A stove disintegrated recently with a resulting death list of three, a long list of wounded and a property loss of a considerable amount. A modern 16-inch shell could be converted into a handy stove when the bursting charge has been removed and, contrarily, the most domestic appearing stove may be converted into "household shrapnel." The heater, whether store, office or in a school, is full brother to the stove, and has the same family characteristics. The fireplace may be the innocent means of distribution of burning papers and rags upon adjacent roofs, or may, where no hearth screen is provided, throw out its firebrands upon the floor or household furniture with disastrous results. It should be kept in mind that the fires having their origin in fireplace negligence so often make the most pitiful addition of all to "fatalities due to fires." Such news items as "the three children were fatally burned and the mother may not recover," "twenty children and teachers lost their lives," etc., etc. What a sickening mockery is the phrase "loss fully covered by insurance."

Giving recognition for the inspirations to Mr. Lee McKenzie of Seattle, the well known fire surveyor and preventionist, we quote below a few axioms. If our readers do not need the common sense they impart, pass them along, or impress them upon some unthinking incinerator of homes and children, of whom there are so many in every community. This act may be apparently less heroic than dragging a child from the path of the onrushing locomotive, but in reality is a great social service and more humane in the aggregate.

What to Do

Learn how to turn in a fire alarm. Know where the nearest fire alarm box is located.

Have all chimneys, stovepipes, etc., thoroughly cleaned at least once a year.

Always know that there is a screen on the hearth—in front of the grate fire—when not there yourself.

Know the telephone number of the fire department station.

Secure a hand fire extinguisher—get a real one, if in doubt ask the agent for the approved list.

Remember that cigars, cigarette and matches should not be thrown

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6 Incubators and Brooders.
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15 No. 8 Waffle Irons.
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At much less than regular price.

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12 6-Cup Aluminum Coffee Percolators worth \$2.25 at, each... \$1.65

Builders' Hardware

100 pairs 3x3 and 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 Butts, the pair... 5c
200 pairs 3x3 and 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 Butts, heavy plated, pair... 12 1/2 c
100 Inside Lock Sets in dull brass and copper, worth 85c, now 50c
15 Front Door Lock Sets in dull brass and copper, worth \$2.50, now... \$1.75
200 Cupboard Catches worth 10c at... 7c
200 Drawer Pulls worth 5c at... 3c
100 Sash Locks, all finishes, worth 10c, at... 7c

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We have a BIG STOCK of all kinds of tools, also Axes, Wedges, Garden Tools, etc. Our prices on these are very interesting.

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