

THE VALUE OF A WORD—IF THAT WORD IS "YES"

Fortunes' and Honors Won by a Single Affirmative

Copyright 1907
Clifton, Washington

Theodore Roosevelt
Who Says
"Yes" for His Writings

WHAT is the value of a word—if that word be "yes"?

Ex-President Roosevelt, it has been generally reported, is to get \$1 a word for his articles describing his hunting adventures in Africa.

James J. Jeffries, the pugilist, is to get \$50,000 for saying simply "Yes," in answer to the proposal that he fight the colored champion, Johnson.

Those prices represent extremes in the value of a word, spoken or written, in these days of piping peace, when adventure and strife seem to have gained newly romantic charms.

But even the dazzling reward held out to Boxer Jeffries becomes trivial when it is compared with the enormous riches that have been earned by fair women who have consented to utter the same word that was required of him.

Alluring as the prices are, how many others are there who would want to earn as much in the same manner; and how many are there who, if they were willing, could do it?

IT MAY be well to remember, in the first place, that Colonel Roosevelt is far from being the only and original winner of the literary prize of \$1 a word.

As magazine articles go, the pioneer in that golden pathway was the late Richard Mansfield, who got it because he didn't want it. An editor, who was conducting a magazine that had already earned millions, conceived the idea that Mr. Mansfield's dictum on the chances and mischances of the stage as a vocation would help the circulation a lot; so he wrote, asking the actor for an article.

"My price is \$1 a word," curtly replied Mr. Mansfield, deeply affronted at the impertinence of vulgar trade.

"Please rush 1000 words," retorted the editor, willing to pay \$1000 to take pride down a peg or two.

Some few years later, for the "subsequent" adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was declared to have been paid \$1 a word; and there the market stayed, with \$1 as the top notch to which every subsequent aspirant must climb, if he hope to become really distinguished.

From the Mansfield incident—and from the Sherlock Holmes price, many a literary critic will add—it is apparent that the gentle art of composition is far from being the actual basis of value.

Words, not deeds, would be the test applied by any critic in assaying the cash merits of manuscripts submitted to him; but deeds, not words, constitute the intrinsic worth of these modern Midases of the pen and tongue.

It is altogether doubtful whether Colonel Roosevelt will have his \$1 a word as clear profit by the time his expenses in earning it shall have been reckoned up. No white man penetrates into the heart of Africa, with a truly adequate hunting expedition, cheaply.

The hunting outfit, mounting into some thousands of dollars as a first cost, and the transportation expenses are more than equalled by the wages and maintenance of the great force of native porters that must be carried along, whether the hunter wants them or not.

HUNTING COMES HIGH
He must have them. Even so seasoned a veteran of bush and veldt as Frederick Courtenay Selous, an ivory hunter from his boyhood, found his own long trailing procession of porters essential whenever he undertook a protracted hunt or intended to bring to civilization trophies of the chase.

It is true that natives can often—indeed, usually—be secured for the extensive "beats" that sometimes round up a lion, and sometimes don't; but the hunting of the lion, the elephant and the rhinoceros is far from being either a safe or a sedentary occupation, and every native looks for his reward.

When an African chief consents to hire out a couple of hundred of his tribesmen he looks to be proportionately compensated. But the hunter's actual investment of money, he puts up a far more valuable asset, his life.

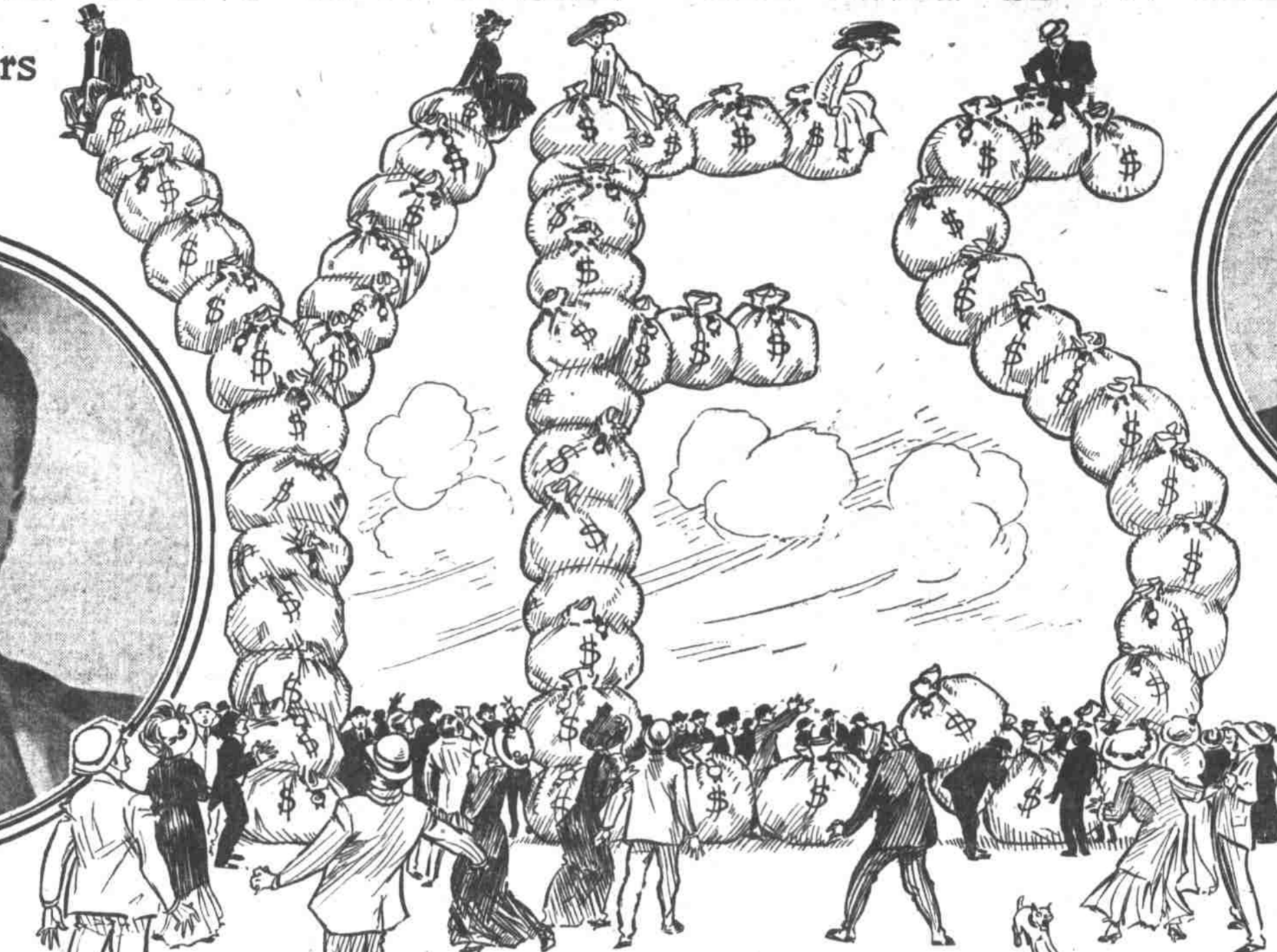
Mr. Roosevelt waited until the lion came within fifty paces, and then killed him with a well-directed bullet in the brain. The former President's accurate shooting is the object of universal admiration.

That is the way some dispatches about the prospective author's fourth lion ran; and they were read with quite comfortable thrills by millions of heroes of the fiction.

But the history of big-game hunting in Africa embraces the names of very few men who have repeatedly faced the charges of desperate lions—and a great many of them never faced the charge of more than one.

It is precisely because of the two main facts—that Colonel Roosevelt is the best-known American and that he is constantly risking a most terrible death—that the words with which he will clothe his deeds have been appraised at the high market value of \$1 each.

Dangerous as so ambitious an expedition undoubtedly is, and few as have been the hunters who have undertaken one, the chances are that a thousand ad-



Mrs. James H. Smith, who married the country's richest bachelor.

Jeffries gets but \$50,000—"Yes."
Whatever the prizes that fall to enterprise, daring and strength, the history of that little condensing word would seem to emphasize the constant repetition of the triumphs of Hercules all fang, for the sake of her gracious nod, at the feet of Omphale.

The price of a million dollars a word, paid by Magnate Duke for his second wife's consent to their marriage, represented perfectly the enormous valuation which has often been put upon the word of a



Lady Gerald Lowther, formerly Miss Blight of Philadelphia, who entered diplomatic career.

dowerless, received a foreign title which might well have been quoted at many millions in the international matrimonial mart; Miss Alice Atherton Blight, now Lady Gerald Lowther, who for years withheld the utterance of the word while the man who was resolved to be her husband served her, and the Laban of British diplomacy, until he wore out her obduracy and she chose the path that led to her position at the side of the British ambassador at Berlin.

None of these, however, compares in fixed and definite market appraisement of the word "Yes," when spoken by a woman to her lover, with that which attached to the consent of Mrs. William Rhineland Stewart, of New York, when she gave it to the late James Henry Smith—"Silent" Smith—of Aladdin-fortune fame.

For years "Silent" Smith, modest broker, taciturn clubman, economical connoisseur of books and pictures, lived his unostentatious life until his uncle in London died and left him \$2,000,000. After starting American society both by the good taste and the splendor of his entertainments, and buying the



The woman who won J.B. Duke and his great fortune.



\$2,000,000 Whitney mansion at 871 Fifth avenue for a home, he offered himself, the richest bachelor in the world, to Mrs. Stewart, who had been considered one of the handsomest girls of Baltimore.

A sister of Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel and daughter of the late John A. Armstrong, one of Baltimore's leading merchants, Mrs. Stewart was rich in her own right, and had long been respectfully and sincerely admired by the man who sought her hand.

She gave him her word, and they were married in September, 1906. She was to share for life in such a fortune as few ever dreamed of enjoying. For a wedding gift he made her a present of 3000 of the pick of the world's precious gems, such a collection as no other woman owns, worth \$500,000.

Within less than seven months the bridegroom died, during a tour of Japan. His vast fortune, which he had held as many years, had shrunk to \$25,000,000, whether by reason of his lavish expenditures or of exaggeration of his original inheritance was never publicly known.

But his will, when the settlement of his estate required the publicity, revealed an ante-nuptial agreement by which his bride accepted, as her share of his estate in the event of his death, the sum of \$3,000,000, the bulk of the remainder going to two of his nephews as his direct heirs.

Participation in the immense fortune of the richest bachelor in the world was what was offered Mrs. Stewart while her suitor lived; but it lasted for little more than half a year of happy honeymoon. But jewels in hand worth \$500,000, together with the guarantee of \$3,000,000, sufficed to make the price of her single word such as no other woman of this age has been authentically offered for the little momentous syllable, "Yes."

Some Curious Facts

THE salt tax in China yields a revenue of nearly \$10,000,000 a year.

A town in north Prussia has decreed that any woman who promenades the streets in a trailing skirt will be fined.

One of the wealthiest hat porters in Europe has just retired into private life—that of the famous Lahmann Sanatorium, near Dresden. The porter, who has had only ten years' service, made an annual income of \$12,000 out of tips, it is said.

The king of the Belgians has offered a prize of the value of \$5000 for the best work on the progress of aerial navigation and the most efficient means of encouraging it. Foreigners are especially invited to participate equally with Belgians in this competition, and may send in their essays in their own language.

All the essays have to be sent to the ministry of science and art in Brussels not later than March 1, 1911. The jury will award the prize will consist of three Belgians and four of other nationalities.

The diameter of the Atlantic cable varies according to the depth of the water, the character of the bottom on which it lies and the probabilities of interference from anchors. It is smallest in midocean depths. There is little or no movement at the bottom, and it is important that the cable should not have great weight. A heavy cable in deep water would be difficult to bring up for repairs if such were needed. In the shallower water a heavier type of cable is used. The types are known as "shore end," "intermediate" and "deep sea." The diameters of the commercial cables are: Shore end, 2 1/2 inches; intermediate, 3 1/2 inches; deep sea, 1 inch.

The first lifeboat is still in existence at Redcar, Yorkshire, England. This boat was placed at Redcar in the year 1802, to be used as a boat "for saving life in storms or other dangers to ships" coming into or near the mouth of the Tees. It was built by a shipwright of the neighboring port of Sunderland from plans of his own invention, and Parliament considered his work so meritorious and advantageous that it voted him a sum of \$6000 as a reward for his time, trouble and ingenuity. This fine old boat did excellent service for over seventy years, and then, owing to the introduction of newer types and better boats, it was placed upon the "retired list" and transferred to the shed where it now is.

Reading Character by Studying Shoes



WILL you be my wife, my dear little wife?" he asked.
Her head fell, a whispered "Yes" reached him where he knelt at her feet.
Gratefully he took her hand and, kissing it, placed thereon the gold band of troth. He knelt in bliss until his attention was attracted to her feet, which she began gently moving. Suddenly he rose.
"I'm afraid I've made a mistake. You'll— you'll—excuse me," he stammered.
"What do you mean?" she asked.
"Your shoes—oh, no, no—it's impossible!"
And then he bolted.

What Dr. Garre claims is this: That one can tell the character of people by their shoes and the way they wear them.
That worn shoes indicate character more clearly and unfailingly than the lines of the palm.
That by considering a woman's shoe one can tell whether she is economical and home-loving or extravagant and gay.
That, in a moment, one can tell an honest man from a scoundrel by observing his footwear.
These claims, which are sensational in a way, are based upon the doctor's study of the shoes of various people with whose characteristics he first familiarized himself.
Palmistry, according to the savant quoted, may reveal elemental characteristics, but it is not reliable. Handwriting undoubtedly indicates a disposition, he says, but not nearly so well as a person's footwear.
A man walks along unconsciously. By his movement, the weight of the body, he wears away certain parts of the shoes. This will reveal character. Moreover, the very selection of the very kind of a shoe a person chooses will do the same.

wife. Suppose you should observe that she wore a fancy shoe or slipper, splendidly decorated with spangles and silks, with a tall, thin French heel. Would you be willing to give her up?
According to the European scientist many men would run away from women they imagine they loved if they were clever enough to read the woman's character from her shoes.
The elaborate, fancy slipper, he explains, is worn usually by women of the chorus-girl type—gay, volatile, butterfly creatures of whom one could not expect constancy. The tall, graceful heel indicates a light nature; the taller the heel the more shallow the wearer. Sometimes, according to the doctor's claims, the longer the tip of the toe the shorter the wearer's insight and intellect. And the more elaborate the shoe the more unattractive the character.
Of course, these are bold and dangerous claims for a man to make.
But he says more. If the sole of the shoe is worn on the outer edge one may know that the woman he intends marrying will try to dominate the man. There will be no clubs, no fun, no trips from home,

no tobacco smoke—nothing.

A pronounced wearing of the outer edge denotes, according to the savant, an imperious, dictatorial disposition. On the contrary, if shoes are worn on the inside a woman will invariably be modest, gentle, tractable.

A man who wears his shoes on the outer edge, it is claimed, possesses an adventurous spirit. He might not make a domestic man, but prefer to climb mountains, kill lions in Africa or make a dash for the North Pole.

Dr. Garre declared that once a man entered his office wearing shoes which were worn on the outer side the tip of the sole also being roughened, while the rest of the sole was almost new. "I immediately knew the man was a scoundrel," he said.

The sole of an enterprising business man will wear evenly. On the contrary, the doctor says, any pronounced wearing at a particular section of the shoe will indicate abnormal tendencies or abilities.

POINTS TO WATCH

Watch people when they select shoes, is his advice. Mark well the little woman who walks into a shop and carefully looks over the styles. She looks at this pair and that; the fancy, high-heeled, delicate, graceful shoe she places aside. Instead, she selects a modest, blunt-toed, low-heeled shoe—the kind known as the "common-sense variety." That woman is either a home-loving wife or, if she is unmarried, the doctor says, may be depended upon to make a happy home for a man should he select her.

People who select common-sense shoes usually possess common sense, it is said. And just as one may know an irresolute character by wearing away the inner edge of the heel and sole, he can tell a determined spirit and tempered man by an even wearing of the soles.

"So watch the kind of shoes she buys in looking for a wife. Remember that if waxy heels and toes there lies your sole for life. The blunt and stubby for a frau, the high-heel for a lark; And, when you've chosen, be prepared to toe the chosen mark."

THIS instance, which is purely imaginary, might often be the result of an ardent lover's wooing if he understood the characteristics revealed by the shoes. That is, if Dr. Garre, of Basle, Switzerland, is correct in his theory.