

# The Oregon Statesman

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## MORAL COWARDICE

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"Would you escape criticism?"

"Say nothing."

"Do nothing."

"Be nothing."

This tersely, wrote one of our American authors with a gift for epigrammatic diction, and he expressed in this striking way an undeniable truth. The man who goes through life without exciting serious criticism or opposition and who goes down to the grave "without an enemy in the world," as some people are fond of saying of their deceased friends belongs to one of two classes. He either adopts himself and his conduct and principles to the ideas and purposes of every designing or forceful individual he meets, or he has no force or ability to enable him to do anything worth while. In any line of endeavor as soon as one really starts anything he is sure to run counter to some one's selfish schemes and to arouse the opposition, if not the enmity, of somebody who fears that his interests are to be adversely affected.

When there is a duty to speak or act, it is weak, to say the least, to yield to the impulse to keep silent or to avoid doing anything that will incur opposition or enmity. It is still worse to shape one's conduct solely with the thought of giving no offense to others, instead of making it the first rule of life to satisfy conscience and preserve self-respect. Yet the moral coward is very common. Men who would resent as most insulting the insinuation that they are cowards feel no sense of humiliation when they are afraid to take a stand on any moral or public question, or having taken a stand, fall down at the first fire or discreetly run to the rear out of harm's way.

The reformer who tries to interest the modern business man in any crusade against vice or political corruption or in any other movement for civic betterment will, in many cases, be calmly told by the man he is trying to enlist in the cause that he cannot engage in any such movement, as to do so would injure his business. The bland assurance with which he makes this statement clearly demonstrates that he has no proper appreciation of the unmanly, cowardly and contemptible exhibition he is making of himself. If it were true that by standing for the right a man would injure his business, one who has any manhood worthy of the name would stand for the right nevertheless. But it is not true. Even while opposing and criticizing him, most people have real respect only for one who honestly stands for what he thinks to be right. No man in these days permanently injures his business by standing squarely and fearlessly for a righteous or worthy cause.

Foreigners often charge Americans as a people with worshipping the almighty dollar and sacrificing everything else for it. There is some foundation for this charge. As compared with other things we put much too high a value upon our wealth and our commercial successes. The mere fact that one has amassed a fortune or is a great merchant or financier should not of itself entitle him to a worthy fame. The more important considerations are these: How did he acquire his fortune or attain his business success? How have his activities affected his character. How have these activities affected other men and the world.

To achieve success in business is, of course, a worthy ambition, provided it be done honestly and mankind be not injured or destroyed by your efforts. Better still, if by your business success you have done a real service to others and have helped in a measure to make the world, as well as yourself, richer or happier or better. But even then do not be satisfied to be nothing more than a bulging money bag. One can be a successful business man and still stand for something, do something, be something in a character way, in a moral sense. And were this not so, better less wealth, if necessary in order to acquire more riches of character and spirit; better for you and better for the world. One is of the earth, earthy, and is only for a day; the other is for eternity. Even in this world there is more satisfaction, more real honor in a beautiful, strong and noble character and the consciousness that you have lived a life of usefulness and duty than in the possession of all the wealth of the world. It really does not pay in any way to

be a moral coward, even though the sure reward of this cowardice be untold riches.

The men and women who settled New England, and whose descendants form probably the largest element in our population today, were of heroic mold. They had faced ridicule and persecution in their European homes because they steadfastly embraced the truth as they saw it. In order that they might be free to follow their convictions they left their native land and cheerfully faced the dangers of the wilderness in the New World. Their moral and physical courage was sublime. The progenitors of other elements of our population were cast in similar mould. This courage and spirit they transmitted to their progeny and these did more than anything else to shape our destiny and establish our institutions and liberties. It would be well for their descendants to remember that no nation can be truly great or long be free or endure whose people will not fearlessly stand for the right and fight for it if need be.

Shall the splendid national structure which our forefathers built go down because we have degenerated into moral cowards and weaklings? Our commercialism and love of wealth have already greatly weakened our moral fiber as a people. Before it is too late let us strive to reincorporate in individual and national life the splendid courage of our forefathers; and let us never forget that, no matter how many dollars he has or how successful he has been in business or politics or anything else, the moral coward is beneath the contempt of real men and women. He is only driftwood of human life helplessly being carried wherever the current runs.

Whatever your business or station do not be satisfied to be a mere money chaser; be a real man. Stand for something in the community. Do something. Be something.

It is very gratifying the way filberts are being planted in the Salem district. This all means the centering of a great industry here.

There is just one more thing needful to everlastingly establish the Salem district as the greatest fruit section of the world; and that thing is ample cold storage facilities.

There is enough flax straw on hand at the penitentiary to keep the plant there very busy till the next harvest. The thing now is to add facilities for spinning, and to get the hemp industry started on the same scale; and then to get more modern facilities for taking care of the straw.

There are a number of farmers in the Salem district anxious to raise more flax. Mr. Street, when he arrives in Salem, will find the farmers ready for him. They have all along been doing their full part in starting and developing this coming great industry.

There are new forms being developed for the marketing of spinach. How do you know about the growing of this very important crop? The Salem journal editor wants to hear from you.

Copies of the Welcome edition of The Statesman are going every day to the addresses of eastern friends and relatives of Oregon people. Each copy is an invitation to come to Salem and help in making a greater city and a greater country; and the matter embracing this invitation cannot be sent in any other way in as complete and satisfactory and attractive shape. If you have a friend or relative looking for a new location, you would better send in your order before the extra copies are all gone—for they will not last long at the present rate of sale.

## WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

(Los Angeles Times.)

An old subscriber, who says that in the past he has absorbed much political and economic thought-pearls from the columns of the Times, has written us to give him a simple answer to the question, "What is a Christian?"

That is a large contract to wish on a daily newspaper, which, like Martha in the Bible, has to be "careful about many things." Our first idea was to refer our subscriber to his pastor, or the churches or the various creeds and "isms and 'ologies, presumably founded on the Christian idea.

On second thought, however,

we have decided that probably our subscriber has already taken that course, and not being satisfied with the result, has turned to the Times as a court of last resort. In which case we feel compelled to make some effort to uphold the prestige of the press.

"What is a Christian?" should on the face of it be easy to answer. Because there are so many millions of him; and every one of these millions must have a good reason for calling himself "Christian."

There are millions of noses in the world and every nose is per se a nose. Yet no two noses are alike. How should one answer the question, "What is a nose?" Evidently it is not so simple as it appears.

We cannot pretend to supply a general answer to the question when approached from the theological angle. All we can do is to offer our subscriber a practical test to apply to his own conduct, not as a church member, but as an everyday human being.

In that wonderful book, the gospel according to St. Matthew, our subscriber will find three chapters, the fifth, sixth and seventh, which contain all that is possible to say on the question of "What is a Christian?" The words of all the preachers, all the teachers, all the prophets, all the philosophers can add nothing to—can take nothing away from—the mighty message of these three transcendent chapters.

They are expressed in the simplest language and their meaning is as plain as the nose on your face. They are not bounded by

## FUTURE DATES.

- January 28 to 30—Interstate convention of Y. M. C. A. in Salem.
- February 2, Thursday—Duroc day, show and sale, state fair grounds.
- February 12, Saturday—Lincoln's birthday.
- February 14, Monday—Basketball, Willamette vs. University of Idaho, at Moscow.
- February 15 and 16, Tuesday and Wednesday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walls Walla.
- February 17, Thursday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Walls Walla Y. M. C. A., at Walls Walla.
- February 18 and 19, Friday and Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Gonzaga, at Spokane.
- February 22, Tuesday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Idaho, at Salem.
- February 23, Tuesday—Washington's birthday.
- February 24 and 25, Thursday and Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Whitman at Salem.
- March 4 and 5, Friday and Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Eugene.
- April 15, Friday—Baseball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Salem.
- April 16, Saturday—Baseball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Eugene.
- May 26, 27 and 28—Baseball, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walls Walla.
- October 1, Saturday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. O. A. C., at Corvallis.
- November 11, Friday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walls Walla.
- November 24, Thursday (tentative)—Thanksgiving day football, Willamette vs. Multnomah at Salem.

## FAIR OREGON.

Fair Oregon, who would not linger on her shore,  
An idol that the mystic Gods adore,  
Why do they worship at her shrine,  
And count the very produce of her lands divine?

Clad in her sombre robes, she greets her guest,  
Winter, whose breath is chilly, though he loves her best,  
Now maiden of the mist is she, I know,  
But watch her revive when the March winds blow.

An unseen God, the contents of his cornucopia spills  
Upon her valleys, fields and lofty hills—  
Garlands are strewn upon her as she sings with glee,  
"Wake from your slumbers, come along with me."

On through the hills, the murmuring river winds its way,  
High in the heaven moves the crimson orb of day,  
Golden sunset, night winds sighing, once again; golden dawn  
In unity, their song to thee I hear them sing: Fair Oregon!

Enchanting it may seem to those who hear that strain—  
Who can resist but follow in her train?  
Fair Oregon; surpassing in beauty, no other have I seen,  
Nor have I witnessed a more comely queen.

She never fails to give to those who roam,  
Blessings, in plenty, and a happy home,  
And those who turn indifferent and will not abide  
But seeks the distant hills, are never satisfied.

Structures of nature that will ne'er decay  
Her lofty hills and crystal streams display—  
Sacred in history are her charms sublime,  
Vanishing never in the sands of time.  
Salem, Oregon

— E. NIEMEYER.

The sentiments of a newcomer to this wonderful country. Mrs. E. Niemeier has been in Salem just a short time, coming with her husband and two children from Alberta, Canada, last September. Mr. Niemeier has bought a small ranch here and intends to make it his future home. He is brother to C. W. Niemeier of Salem.—Ed.)

ritual or creed or dogma or superstition.

These three chapters contain 111 verses in all. Now if our subscriber will take any one of those 111 verses and live up to both the letter and the spirit of the divine teachings contained therein, he can for himself answer the puzzling question, "What is a Christian?"

The choice is thus made broad enough to satisfy all grades of thought. We might suggest that he start with verses 23 and 24, in chapter V. And follow it up with that short and simple exhortation in verse 1, chapter VII. "That appears to be the most difficult text for the modern Christian to put into practice."

We do not profess to instruct our subscriber as to how far these three chapters will take him on the road to heaven, but we do know as a practical guide for business success on earth they contain a noble wisdom that is faultless in its application.

## PROGRESSIVE GRANDMA

A Nebraska grandmother—who was also a presidential elector—was the official messenger of the electors of her state and bore the record for the electoral college to Washington by airship. The founders of the republic never thought that grandma would vote and they certainly never dreamed that she would be taking the election returns to Washington in a flying machine. The world has upset a lot of ancient ideas. It wasn't so hard to imagine grandma flying with wings, like an angel, but it was disturbing to find her smelling of gasoline and to have her propellers making such a fiendish racket. It is feared that grandma will never be the same old dear. Since she got the jazz in her feet she behaves like the wild man of Doruco. She cuts corners by day and sits up with a couple of emotional saxophones at night. Poor grandma!

## DISARMAMENT.

All the diplomats are talking about "a naval holiday." What's the matter with utilizing Abraham Lincoln's birthday for a starter? With malice toward none and charity for all we can start off February 12 as well as not.

# DODGE BROTHERS 4 DOOR SEDAN

The Sedan has become a permanent part of the substantial domestic life of the nation.

This could not be so if the car were not deserving in the sense of being good and economical.

The gasoline consumption is unusually low.  
The tire mileage is unusually high.

## BONESTEEL MOTOR CO.

Marion and Polk County Distributors  
Ferry and Commercial Sts. Salem, Oregon



# OUR FORMAL OPENING Thursday, February 3d DUROC DAY



## YOU ARE INVITED

We cordially invite the Salem Public to visit our plant and see it in operation, 9 a. m. till 10 p. m. during Duroc Day. We will do our utmost to entertain you and will give a special meat-cutting demonstration at 8 p. m., after which a luncheon, including Cascade Brand Hams and Bacon will be served. We want everybody to come and bring your friends.

Yours for the success of Duroc Day

# VALLEY PACKING CO.

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DID you ever realize that one of those United States National bank accounts closes the door against adversity and opens it for opportunity?

It's true! When conditions are unsettled (there's the greatest comfort in the world in knowing that your account can withstand them. When they are good, it's there to take advantage of them.

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SALEM OREGON