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THE OPEN MIND

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Rare, indeed, is the truly open mind. Most people are naturally bigots. Having become accustomed to certain fixed ideas and to a certain established course of thought and life, they resent any attempt to force them, even to induce them, to come out of their accustomed ruts, no matter how beautiful and smooth the road may be into which it is sought to turn them.

This peculiar characteristic of human nature makes the world move more slowly than some of us would like to see it, but, on the other hand, it may have prevented, it may still prevent, ignorant and undeveloped humanity from embracing many follies that come in the enticing guise of novelty.

Until the advent of the modern scientific method, fairness, even-handed justice and open-mindedness were even greater rarities in this world. Men, dominated by their imperfect a priori methods of reasoning and their narrow range of knowledge and mental vision, were almost universally moved by blind prejudice, sordid selfishness and passion. An attitude of receptiveness to new truths of any kind was almost entirely unknown. As a result the world was buried in medieval darkness for a thousand years, and the road of human progress is lined with the graves of martyrs.

But with the advent of the modern scientific method, which keeps the mind free to accept the truths that experience and impartial investigation bring to us, a new day is slowly dawning. Although most men are still blindly dominated by their prejudices and their habits of thought and life, a few souls are striving to keep an open mind to truth and to "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good," as the Scripture commands. These must lead the people of the world finally, even though slowly and painfully, away from the darkness, ignorance and bigotry of the past and teach them to order their lives solely by the light of real knowledge and truth.

* * * *

To have an open mind does not, of course, mean that we are to receive with open arms every innovation and every new suggestion that plausible idealists and impractical theorists advance. It is as much a lack of open-mindedness to become at once a blind partisan of the new idea or the new theory without careful investigation and mature study as it is to blindly reject everything new without study or investigation of any kind. This is not the proving process which the Scripture and reason alike command us to apply to all things. The blind idealist or the theorist is just as dangerous a leader as the blind bigot. The unreasoning, enthusiastic, impractical radical is no more to be followed than the immovable conservative or the reactionary. Indeed, it is the part of wisdom to insist upon staying where we are until we are sure that the step we are asked to take is a step really in advance and not a moving out into chaos. It is the duty of every man to stick to his intellectual moorings until he is provided with chart and compass and knows where the proposed voyage is to land him.

Fortunately, the people of this country are not easily led away into new and strange paths. There is no immediate danger of most of them being enamoured of Bolshvism, I. W. W.'ism or Socialism in its various forms. Better reactionary conservatism than that kind of liberalism. Self-interest or class prejudice may sometimes blind their eyes for a time to the real menace of these dangerous and destructive isms, but a little object lesson like that which Russia is now giving to the world, will soon set them right and bring them back to sanity and safety.

But our real danger lies in the opposite tendency. We as a nation are more apt to become the victim of that inertia which makes a man a Republican, or a Democrat, a Catholic, a Methodist, or a Baptist solely because his father was one, and that keeps him in the same political party or church, no matter where it may lead, and without much, if any thought or investigation. Three-fourths of the people of the United States are blindly partisan and cannot be reasoned out of their partisan attitude. No matter where their political party goes, what it advocates, how it changes its principles, they accept its leadership without question and blindly follow its behest. This partisanship, the so-called politician relies upon to carry through his schemes, and the statesman who really is striving for constructive and reformatory measures often finds this same partisanship athwart his path, preventing intelligent and scientific consideration of the gravest and most important subjects. This partisanship has in the past been the cause of many national mistakes and follies and will doubtless be productive of many more in the future, all of which could be avoided if the people of the country could maintain a really open mind toward all new questions of public policy, striving to decide them solely in the light of knowledge, experience and history.

* * * *

But it is in religion where the open mind is rarest. Every new idea in religion meets the fiercest opposition, no matter how enforced it may be by reason, by the Scripture or by results. That it is new and different from the old is enough to array all others against it and to induce them to make common cause against the latest religious innovation. Thus it has been through all the religious history of the world. When any new idea in religion has been presented to men they have cried out in opposition and in support of their old gods, like the Greek of old when the great apostle presented to them the new Christian religion. "Great," they shouted, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians."

For this reason religion has not only been slow of advancement, but most of the graves of the martyrs will be found along its pathway. When will the day come that men will have an open mind in the consideration of religious questions? When it does, religion will have such an awakening as the world has never seen.

William Allen White says that the United States has many men more able than Lincoln. Possibly one of them is an Emporia (Kan.) editor.

Many a girl who when very young makes up her mind to be a Sister of Charity later on leads the jazz dancers. But has she made a happy choice?—Los Angeles Times.

Keep going, you flax growers. You are doing splendid work. Show every blooming member of the legislature that the flax industry is the coming biggest thing in Oregon.

The legislature should follow the lead of State Forester Elliott and his board—and enact some constructive laws to conserve and protect our forests. Our timber is the greatest of all our crops.

The flax growers are feeling that they are back on earth. First, the prices of tow and fiber made a substantial gain in prices, and became in ready demand. And then Governor Pierce and Superintendent Smith of the penitentiary came along with a vision of making the flax industry pay the costs of running the prison. So, when the flowers bloom in the spring, or a little later, there is going to be a boom in the flax industry here—and it will grow bigger every year for a hundred years.

What has become of the old-fashioned "Amen corner" in the local M. E. churches?—Los Angeles Times. Don't know how it is down there; but up here in Oregon all the corners of the Methodist churches are "Amen corners." The Methodists up here work at their religion—or at least most of them do.

CONSERVE TIMBER RESOURCES.

The twelfth annual report of State Forester F. A. Elliott, making up a handsomely printed little book, is out, and copies on the desks of members of the Oregon legislature.

The protection and conservation of our timber resources is well treated in the report — and The Statesman proposes to give more space to this very comprehensive report at some later time.

At this time, the members of the legislature ought to give attention to the recommendation contained in the report — and there should be some appropriate legislation. Following are the recommendations:

1. The state board of forestry regards fire prevention and control on both mature and immature timber crops of fundamental importance in the state's forestry program. Such legislation should be enacted as will make possible, through cooperation with the federal government and by direct state action, that degree of fire prevention and control which will make forest properties an insurable risk.

2. The state of Oregon should enter on a program of acquisition by purchase, gift, bequest or acceptance in trust of logged-off or other absolute forest land.

3. An aggressive campaign of education to the end that the people of the state be fully informed concerning the value and extent of its forest resources, the damage done to mature and immature forests by fire, together with the means which should be employed to bring about the full and continued utilization of our forest lands and to insure the full protection and wise use of the state's existing timber supplies.

4. There should be created a commission authorized to investigate and report upon the whole question of the taxation of forest lands devoted to the reproduction of forest crops and of these crops during the period between establishment and maturity.

5. Continued systematic investigation and control of insect depredations and white pine blister rust should be provided for in order that timber losses be minimized through these agencies.

6. There should be a definite program os assistance to woodlot owners and to those who desire to establish forest plantations for farm use, for commercial timber production or for beautifying the public highways.

7. The state should extend every reasonable encouragement and advice to the establishment of municipal forests for the protection of watersheds valuable to towns and cities in maintaining their water supply.

8. The state and federal government should provide for a comprehensive inventory of the forest resources and absolute forest lands of the state, including:

(a) The total supply of merchantable timber;

(b) The total acreage of immature timber with the approximation of its maturity and estimated yield at maturity;

(c) The total amount of forest land now unproductive.

9. The continuation and extension of airplane forest patrol by the war department in cooperation with the state and federal forest protective organizations.

STAGE FRIGHT

Miss Martha Miller, 22-year-old hunter of lions in their native haunts in the jungles of Africa, fainted from stage fright in Newark, N. J., the other day. She was about to address the men's club in the Park Presbyterian church on her experiences on an eight months' trip devoted to slaughtering elephants and lions, but found herself bereft of the power of speech and collapsed.

At first blush it would seem that anyone who could look a lion in the eye without experiencing acute stage fright should be equal to almost any emergency. There is something about the idea of encountering old Leo in his native habitat that would rob the most of us of our savior faire. Even a lion in a zoo is nothing to be sneezed at, and when he opens his formidable mouth and emits a heartfelt roar, most folks feel their interest in carnivarous animals wavering. And to march forth in a jungle and shoot him dead, or worse still, half dead, should require bravery of a peculiarly high sort.

Which goes to prove that what we consider courage is purely comparative. An actress who can gaze nonchalantly forth at a vast audience in a theater would collapse if confronted with even the most feeble and dyspeptic lion. And a lady lion hunter, who is a terror to the four-footed folk of the jungles, faints with horror at facing a small church audience. Many a man has proven himself a mountain of courage on the battlefield; a snarling bear at his office and a quivering mass of tremulous fears in the presence of his own spouse. All in all, things are pretty equal in this world and we can all pat ourselves on the back with the soothing reflection that in our special sphere we are the bravest of the brave.

ASTONISHING BELLHOP

Robert Driscoll Shea, an Indianapolis hotel bell boy, has won a Rhodes scholarship.

There are two surprises in this case. One is surprise that anybody should be surprised at such intellectual attainments on the part of a bellhop. Doesn't everybody know there is no other job on earth which equals bellhoping in teaching a boy to be both "wise" and "smart"? So why shouldn't such a boy win a Rhodes scholarship, when so often mere college boys do it?

But the other surprise is that there was a bellhop on earth who thought he needed more education. All the bellhops most of us have ever known not only knew it all but were ready to admit it. They would much more readily recognize their ability to teach the savants of England a few things than to learn anything from them.

A friend at the writer's elbow thinks the whole country should watch the future of this exceptionally modest bellboy with interest and confidence. For no matter what competition he is up against he is willing to wager, and also bet, that none of his competitors will be in the same class with him in coming to the "front."

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Busy legislative days ahead—

The last three weeks will be the hardest for the legislators.

When the Yanks quit Coblenz only the Cob will be left.

There were 9304 motor vehicles in Marion county last year, on which licenses were paid. There will be over 10,000 this year. There were in addition 247 motorcycles last year. Marion is second in Oregon, of course, with Lane next with 6620, and Clackamas third with 6039. In Multnomah there were 46,850 motor vehicles.

As the United States, saying it with flowers, is the carnation, Marion is the car county of Oregon, in proportion to population.

President Harding insists on his ship subsidy bill. A large proportion of the members of congress want instead preferential duties favoring American bottoms—the way the United States built up a merchant marine in the early history of the country; up to the time of the Civil war.

In one way or the other, or another, it is the duty of congress to make certain of an adequate merchant marine. It is a high crime of omission that the matter has been delayed so long; a disgrace to the commonest kind of horse sense.

The Mistland land, the Webfoot state, will be the bonest dry commonwealth among the sisterhood, if the new laws with teeth and claws in them that are being passed by the legislature shall be enforced in spirit and in truth.

Pierce Will Address Methodist Church Club

Governor Walter M. Pierce is to address the Six O'Clock Club of the First Methodist Church at the church hall, Monday evening. The club has no regularly enrolled membership. It is open without dues or ceremony to all men who wish to attend and to "put in" with a bunch of good fellows who believe in better things, in politics, in civics, in business, in general good citizenship.

Governor Pierce is to talk on law enforcement, prohibition and other matters of vital interest to the state. He is developing into a powerful ready speaker, and his grasp of the essential things of public life is keen and virile. The dinner served by the ladies of the church is practically given away for 50 cents. A phone message to phones 974 or to 1766-W, by Monday noon, will insure a seat to any prospective attendant.

AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY FOR OPERA.

Mme. Marie Jeritza, opera singer, announced that she has established a scholarship for American girls in the Paris studio of Mme. Blanche Marchesi and selected as the first American girl to be sent there Miss Susan Steell (above), only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Steell. Miss Steell is one of several hundred young women who have sung for Mme. Jeritza since she came to New York and is said to have been referred to by the star as one of America's most promising singers.

Photo is of Miss Susan Steell, after painting by A. Muller Ury.

GAR'S WILL HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sedgwick Post to Honor Comrades Who Died During Year Past

Sedgwick Post, Grand Army of the Republic, is to hold its annual memorial service today at 2 o'clock at the GAR hall in the armory.

This is a memorial for the comrades who have died during the year just past. They make a noteworthy group, 19 of them who have answered the last call and have had "Taps" sounded over their last sleep. To them the survivors will pay the tribute they have won by their service to the nation in the years of their life.

The regular ritual service of the Grand Army memorial will be followed. Judge Earl Race, commander of the post, is to preside, and Dr. James Lisle is to deliver the memorial address. The seating capacity of the hall is limited, but the meeting is open for all patriotic orders, to all good American citizens of whatever birth, to any who believe they can gain something better of the American spirit.

The Post has lost more heavily during the year just past than in any other year of its history. A year ago there were 115 members. Some have removed, some have come in from other posts; but the net loss is 18 members, the present membership being only 97. Of these at least one is in a national soldiers' home; two or three are spending the winter in California; one lives near Astoria; and some others live in the smaller towns out from Salem, so that the actual local membership is somewhere between 80 and 85. Five years ago there were 160 members. Sedgwick Post was one of the largest on the Pacific coast. The total roster of members since the Post was founded shows more than 500 names.

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Cross Complaint Filed in Emma M. Welter Case

In a cross complaint filed by G. E. Welter, defendant, in the case of Emma M. Welter against A. F. Welter et al, he alleges that at the request of his father he rendered services to him for which he promised to compensate him. The father, Nickolas Welter, according to claim, later advanced sums of money to his son for the purpose of improving real estate. He had advanced $400 and promised to advance another $400 before his death.

The plaintiff claimed that Nickolas Welter was not in his condition at the time he bequeathed his property. The defendant contends that the transfer was the result of natural love and affection.

URIC ACID
Does NOT Cause Rheumatism

Furthermore, I claim that Uric Acid is a natural and necessary constituent of the blood—that it is found in the body of every newborn babe—that without it we could not live. Strange statements? Yes—to you, perhaps, because you have always been told differently.

But my book, The Inner Mysteries of Rheumatism, just published, tells you the real truth about Rheumatism. Tells what actually DOES cause it and how it is now being successfully treated in all its different forms and stages by entirely new, advanced, scientific methods.

The writing of this unusual book is the result of my twenty years' study, experimentation and research in this disease, and I want every sufferer of Rheumatism, Neuritis, Sciatica, Gout, etc., no matter in what form or how chronic, to read it. Therefore, although valuable, I will gladly send one complete copy, only of the book absolutely free if you will send your address or that of any sufferer you may know to E. P. Clearwater, Ph. D., 653-B Water St., Hallowell, Maine.—adv.

SCHOOL STUDY SPORTS

The Junior Statesman

HUMOR PLAY WORK

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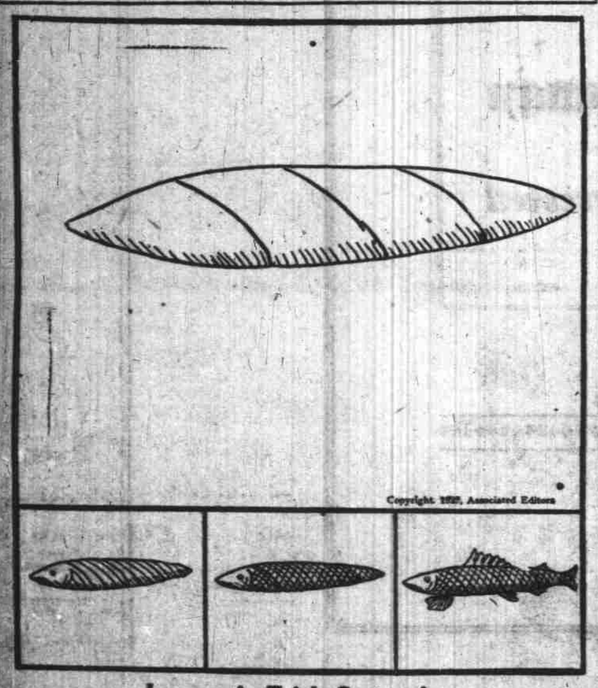
For Boys and Girls



Lessons in Trick Cartooning

A New Kind of Fish

(Compelte the big drawing by adding, one by one, the various lines shown in the series of small key pictures below.)

THE SHORT STORY, JR.

SAVED BY SCISSORS

The great city church was packed to overflowing. It was the night when the Saint James Boys' choir was to make its first public appearance. Out in the Sunday Shool room thirty fine-looking boys excitedly whispered among themselves as they scrambled into their new white vestments.

Only one boy stood undecided in the midst of the group. He dazed fashion. It was Dean Boynton, considered by all the finest singer among the boys. He had been chosen soloist of the new choir. In a few minutes his clear voice would be filling the great church with its flute-like tones.

But what was the matter with him now? The boys all regarded him queerly. Why didn't he get ready? It was almost time. "Dean, it's time to go," his best friend, Bob Hand, rudely shook him by the arm. "Where's your vestment?"

"I forgot it!" Dean gasped at last. "What shall I do?"

"Here, take mine." Already Bob was tugging to get his off.

"Never," said Dean stubbornly shaking his head. "Let me think." Then his eyes fell on

his sister's suitcase which he had brought in and stored away in the corner. She had stayed over to hear him sing and he had to take her to the train to go back to her school right after church.

Feverishly he tore it open and he and Bob grabbed out things. A blue dress. Quickly they discarded it, throwing it in the corner. A white dress. Bob hung it on his arm; it might be used. "Scissors! Here they are," Dean cried.

Bob dropped the white dress. "A gown!" he cried. "Here!"

The big organ started to boom and the boys were forming in line. Trembling in his haste Dean measured Bob's vestment with his eye. Quickly he whacked into his sister's gown. "They're going!" he cried. "Here, help

Come on." Just in time Dean and Bob jumped into their places and the big choir filed slowly into the choir loft.

Dean's voice faltered a little as he started. His mother, father, and Bess sat on the front seat. "I wonder if they'll notice," he thought, and then he forgot everything but his solo. His vince rose and fell stronger and clearer than ever before.

It wasn't till after the services when the audience was slowly filing out that Bess said to her mother, "Dean never told me his vestment was different from the others'. I think it's a prettier style, don't you? It's a nice idea to have the soloist dressed a little differently, don't you think so?"

PICTURE PUZZLE

A "TICKLISH" QUESTION.

TEACHER: "TAKE THIS SENTENCE, LET THE COW BE PUT IN THE BARN WHAT MOOD?"

FIND JOHNNY'S ANSWER BY REARRANGING THESE LETTERS:

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Amoskeag Ginghams, yd. 16c and 19c
32-inch Zephyr Ginghams, yd. 23c
60-inch Mercerized Table Damask, yard 59c
70-inch Mercerized Table Damask, yard 88c
54-inch all wool Poiret Twill, yd. $3.48
36-inch Percales, yard 19c
Ladies' Flannel Gowns, each $1.25
Boys' Percale Blouses, each 39c
Children's Black ribbed hose, pair 15c
Women's Black Hose, pair 14c
Heavy Brown Crash Toweling, yard 19c
Table Napkins, size 18x18, each 14c
Men's Sox, black or Cordovan, pair 11c

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