

The Herald

D. E. STITT, Editor.

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, DEC. 10, 1909.

ARE WE ARBITERS OF SELF

This question presents itself for our careful consideration:

Are we the arbiters of our own lives? that is, have we the right of choice and the power to direct our course with the promise of success?

We believe we have, and it should be profitable to canvass this subject for awhile with the object in view that some stranded life be moved out of the rut where it is now reposing, and started on the upward grade.

We are told that the ancient Slavs were wont to place some living creature under the corner stone when they reared any important building, and we presume that their idea was that it would impart life to the inanimate structure, make it more enduring and enlarge its usefulness by the life thus supposed to have been imparted to it.

We now have outlived and outgrown superstitions of such character, but we catch the thought, and, taking a broader view, we comprehend it better, and understand that institutions are reared, grow and endure according to the energy and vitality with which their projectors and perpetuators endow them. All persons are builders on the altar of life upon which we rear our structures, and that which we build will be a reflex of the builder, and will stand to confront us at the portal of eternity, monuments to recommend us or condemn us to the Master builder.

Galileo made the discovery that the earth is round and that it revolves upon its axis. The energy and research he put forth led him to attain to this knowledge, and although an ignorant, ruling power denied the truth of his claim and put him to death, yet his memory lives, the earth revolves, and the world still moves on.

Christopher Columbus discovered a new continent, which stands as a monument to his intelligence and energy, but suppose that Columbus, when he had conceived the idea of sailing around the earth, had concluded that he was too poor to make the effort, what would have been the result? He would doubtless have lived and died in obscurity and the world would never have heard of him.

Now the question presents itself to each individual: "What are you going to do under these premises?" We are here; we had no choice in the matter of our coming, neither had we choice of place nor time of making our debut upon the scene, but we have choice as to what manner of person we shall be, the character we shall cultivate, the intelligence we shall develop, and our worth as a citizen in the community in which we live.

By proper effort and energy we can reach out and partake of that intelligence which is inviting us upward, we can make ourselves useful and become respected, or without effort we can drift with time's flight and become a wreck on her bosom.

We are our own arbiters; we have our agency; if we build well and intelligently, we shall have reward, but if we are careless and indifferent as to the course we pursue and the effort we put forth we shall suffer loss and come under condemnation for abuse of the talents with which we have been endowed. He who created us has circumscribed our possibilities only by his own omniscience, then why not enter and occupy when so great opportunity is yours.

The proposition to change the charter, of Monmouth, is one that should interest every voter and property owner in town. The legislative power should be vested in the citizens of the town, who should also be alive to their needs and requirements and the progress of the place. Under Democratic government, the majority rules, and you can safely trust the majority. This does not imply that a minority is always in the wrong, but that the majority will prevent any rash legislation by holding it in abeyance until its merits or demerits are understood. It is when the majority trust in a few leaders without exercising their privilege to scrutinize the proceedings of those who lead, that calamity is apt to be brought about to the detriment of the interests of the many.

Now comes the news that Captain Palmer E. Pierce, who is president of the international Athletic Association, is moving to revise football. When taking into consideration the large number of mangled and slain victims of that sport, we have come to the conclusion that it is not revision that is so much needed, but that reformation should be the goal of attainment. Yes, reformation is the better word to express what is needed.

Same Old Story

The Oregonian says prohibition is ineffective in Linn county; but that is the same old story. The murder law is ineffective down in Portland, but it is the same old story; so is the law against the fast driving of automobiles, but it is the same old story. As a matter of fact prohibition is a splendid thing for Linn county, regardless of the lies of the Oregonian. It has wonderfully decreased drunkenness, and it is doubtful if more than a fifth as much liquor is drunk in the county as during the open saloon days. There is an immense difference between the town with the wide open saloon, with its front door crowd and the saloonless city. Of course liquor is drunk some under prohibition; but it makes a different condition of affairs. Men who formerly spent all their money for liquor now have it for their families, and it is only a few who continue to hunt for it compared to the former crowds.

As a matter of fact prohibition is effective, the same as other laws are effective, though continually broken. The liquor business is an infamous traffic, causing misery, degradation and most of the crimes of the world, and it

should be prohibited, even if it is not entirely stopped, nor stopped more than other misdemeanors and crimes of the world.—Albany Democrat.

A Great Walker.

On July 12, 1809, the Newmarket bells rang a peal in honor of Captain Barclay's completed walk of a mile in each of 1,000 successive hours. In his first week of it he had averaged less than fifteen minutes for each mile and in the last week more than twenty-one, and his weight had gone down from thirteen stone four pounds to eleven stone. But on July 17 he joined the Walcheren expedition in perfect health as aid-de-camp to the Marquis of Huntly. Captain Barclay, who was a Barclay of Ury and unsuccessfully claimed three Scottish earldoms, had performed wonderful feats before the Newmarket walk. In 1801 he walked 110 miles in nineteen hours in a muddy park. In 1808 he rose one morning at 5, walked thirty miles grouse shooting, dined at 5 p. m., walked sixty miles to his house at Ury in eleven hours, did some business and walked sixteen miles to dance at a ball, walked home by 7 a. m. and spent the day partridge shooting—in all 130 miles without sleep for two nights and three days. At twenty he could lift half a ton.—St. James' Gazette.

Church Directory.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

L. C. HOOVER, Pastor

Morning service at 11:00 o'clock
Evening service at 7:00 o'clock
Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. A. Meeting at 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

W. A. WOOD, Pastor.

Morning Service at 11 a. m.
Evening Service at 7:00 p. m.
Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m.

W. C. T. U.

Local Union meets every second and fourth Friday in the Evangelical church at 2:30 p. m.

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