

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

As for Thomas W. Lawson, it is hard to tell where he will break out next.

The marshal is planning, when the next shower soaks up things, to subject our Main street paving to a thorough face scrubbing.

Now, to make our little cold spell more agreeable we ought to have from eight to ten inches of the beautiful. Say, who was it threw that brick?

The people who are accustomed to come to Monmouth to trade are as pleased over the resumption of travel on Main street as our merchants themselves.

At any rate no buds have been forming this week, although now the complaint is that pasture and growing grain are faring ill in the sunshine and frost.

The farmer who has stock or produce to sell wonders why any one should complain of high prices. He usually fails to find any thing very high at his end of the selling game.

Not all the discoveries of war will be lost at the conclusion of peace. For instance, the poison spray, invented for trench encounters, is said to be grand stuff for killing flies.

It was a strategical blunder on the part of the committee who were investigating leaks, to let Lawson go in the first place and then only resummons him when goaded to action by partisan sarcasm.

Speaking of fraternities the most popular one just now is that which has a sneeze for a warning sign, in which the pass word is any word in which the n is not sounded and in which the honors are given by blowing the nose as a trumpet.

Thirty thousand teachers are expected in Portland during the early part of July at the sessions of the N. E. A. This will bring visitors to all this portion of the Northwest and Monmouth will get its share. It is not too early now to lay plans for an appropriate welcome.

We observe in the esteemed Arlington, Cal., Times an adv. that reads like this: "Warning! Anyone dumping rubbish on my premises will be prosecuted. W. J. Hole." It may be an atrocious pun but we arise to suggest that the California rubbish collectors must in the future seek out a different hole for dumping purposes.

The optimistic stories of the metropolitan dailies now ring truer than they have at times past. Too frequently they have had the sound of one who whistles to keep up his courage but now with each day bringing accounts of fresh starts in the saw mill business, more ships to be built, railroads entering on construction, the notion has strong backing that good times are close at hand for the northwest.

It is not always western advanced ideas of progress that travel east. For instance, the I. W. W., hitherto unknown there, is beginning to be felt in the centers of industry. The burning of an \$80,000 ice house at Twin Lakes, Wis., within the past two weeks, is laid to the I. W. W. and their latest activity at the same spot is said to be the secret invasion of the cook houses and the pouring of kerosene on the eatables to make a new supply necessary.

Harold Bell Wright's story, "Eyes of the World", the subject of one of the latest movie features, is a story that lends itself unusually well to filming as its scenes are laid in the country from which come a large portion of our successful films. The foothills with their chaparral and sage brush and stunted live oaks which have served in turn for portions of Europe, Asia and Africa may now produce scenes of their very own. Redlands, which for years was the home of Wright, will also get in the picture although some of the sketches of the book have been a little too realistic to suit the citizens of that town, and that the personality might not be carried too far were done elsewhere.

One of the hardest nuts which the present administration has had to crack is the problem of getting soldiers with which to meet the popular demand for preparedness. The National Guard plan is practically acknowledged a failure. In times of stress people are willing to sacrifice for the common good, but for police duty, to ask a young lawyer, dentist, journalist or farmer to give up a promising period in his career for the leveling work of a soldier, whose only work is to maintain order, is more than good nature can stand. Now the tendency is toward military education in colleges and schools and we doubt if this will be allowed to go into effect without protest from the mothers of the land.

Goaded on by continuous complaints and burning with the desire to do something spectacular in the way of combating high prices it is not unlikely that the Federal committee will do serious injury to the storage business. The farmer is especially interested in cold storage and any thing that would result in permanent injury to the cold storage system would injure him. The consumer is also interested for cold storage is the balance wheel that acts as a leveler of prices and lengthens the seasons during which a product can be marketed. The fruit business is strongly interested, but most of all the butter and egg business. The storage principle has done more to place agriculture on an established foundation than most farmers realize.

There is a certain element with whom it is popular to denounce the high cost of education, but the European war offers a fine chance to prove Prof. Evenden's assertion that the years spent by the youth of a nation in school adds in actual dollars and cents to the resources of a nation. An educated people are an asset of immense and almost incalculable value to a nation. Contrast the Germans and their allied enemies. The Germans have financed their own preparations and have upheld Austria and Turkey while the Allies have borrowed not only in the U. S. but in Canada and Australia. The answer is that the educated, directed intelligence of its citizens have enabled it to do that for which its enemies have had to pay immense sums.

The world will regret to hear of the death of Admiral Dewey, the hero of Manila bay, where he was another instance of American good fortune in having the right man in the right place at the right time. Unspoiled by flattery, his uncommon sense as well as his courage on that memorable occasion when he expressed his indifference as to the torpedoes in Manila harbor, have endeared him to the American public. Of that memorable year in

Manila, Rev. W. A. Elkins, who was a private in the volunteers there, has a number of mementoes which he values highly. Many of these are sketches made at the time of the taking of the Philippines, illustrating numerous historical events which took place there. These are views of the ruins of fortifications, water front, etc., made on the ground by the young soldier as he indulged his fancy for this kind of art. Views of hospitals, the trenches, the charge, and of actual warfare give one the sense of personal touch or nearness to historical events and are very interesting.

Some one spoke of Ben Hur the other day, and it took an effort of the memory to recollect it. Lew Wallace's book, which directly owed a large measure of its popularity to a recommendation given by President Garfield, had a great vogue in its day, helped materially by the fact that the nature of the story lent itself readily to stage productions. Since the manufacture of books has been cheapened what a flood of them there has been! And how fleeting is the popularity of a book or of its author. A few years hence, should you speak of Harold Bell Wright, it is likely you will get this response—"Let me see, wasn't he the man who invented the flying machine?" Conversing with Normal students the other day, we spoke of Sam Weller and none of them had ever heard of "Samivel." Not so very long ago the grammars were literally filled with quotations from Dickens: "All the girls were in tears and white muslins," etc., "Just at this moment there was another tap at the door, a sharp pointed tap that seemed to say, 'Here I am and in I'm coming'", were some of the samples that were brought forth to sharpen the wits in sentence construction. It is a little early yet to forget Dickens.

The coast around Eureka, Cal., appears to be well fitted to become the graveyard of the Pacific. Many wrecks have occurred there, the cruiser Milwaukee being the last to lay its hull on those sands. There are few things more graceful than a trim ship breasting the waves, responsive to the slightest movement of the rudder, and there are few things more awkward than that same ship when it piles up on the beach. On the water the strength of a man will move a thousand times his weight. On the land that same weight requires powerful engines, heavy cables and special appliances to move. With such an obstacle as the cruiser Milwaukee to exercise around, the unharnessed breakers will show their power. They will suck the sand out from under it and pile it up on the farther side, digging its grave bit by bit. Equally helpless becomes the properties of the land when they take to the water and the things of the sea when they take to land. Like the boats the whale is helpless when it gets caught in shallow water. Sometimes the wind and tide strand one of these monsters of the deep upon the beach and then the forces that destroy the ship destroy him. What power there is in the foaming waters! To realize it best one must stand on the end of one of the jetties which men have reared to combat and counteract the force of the breakers. Steady, methodical, powerful, the strongest works of man tremble before their onslaught. In their grasp the strongest swimmer is helpless. Wood and iron have to be well braced to prevail against them.

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