

Scene at Opening of Short Session of Congress



General view of the opening of the short session of congress, showing the chaplain of the house, Rev. James Shera Montgomery, delivering the invocation.

World Faces Crisis in Prevailing Disintegration of Family Life

By REV. DR. S. EDWARD YOUNG, Chicago.

EVERYBODY'S prayers should be offered for the confused young people of today who have all the matrimonial inclinations mortals ever had and find themselves discussing promiscuously and in ordinary conversation trial marriage and every phase of sex problems, as unblushingly as we used to discuss the weather.

Novel and stage and motion picture and divorce suit and so-called medical books have left nothing forbidden, no zone of shame to be avoided, when youth in their teens talk couple by couple or in groups. Our women working out and dining out, family arrangements have made the old time fireside a myth to most city and town Americans. The family type that gave us the strong men and women of other days is less and less here to function, and in its stead is coming a regime as far from Puritanism as democracy is from despotism.

Redeclaring church laws and clever decisions that get around church laws influence the situation about as much as New York state statutes affect Reno or Paris. Our only hope is healthful public opinion. It is the big task of churches and all who have a heart to help in the most vital crisis the Anglo-Saxon Christian household has thus far faced.

There is no need of despair. The revolution in family life can be met by the personal religious contacts of preachers and teachers and wholesome books and a re-establishment of the household father as a kind of priest and the mother as a kind of priestess.

Despite Use of Slang, Modern Youth Has Able Command of Language

By W. WILBUR HATFIELD, Chicago Educator.

Despite the accusations of their elders that children use too much slang, the average youth of eighteen today uses much better language than did the youth of fifteen or even five years ago.

The courses in formal rhetoric once so popular in the better schools, have been displaced by training in composition, oral as well as written. Because of changed aims and methods of training the average youth of eighteen today uses much better language than did the youth of eighteen, fifteen or even five years ago.

The next step forward is to be the replacement of the present artificial, would-be literary themes, more than half of which are narratives of insignificant personal experiences, with practice in genuine communication in such situations as occur outside the school.

Already progressive teachers in many places are experimenting with these innovations and finding that they are quite practicable. The school graduates ten years hence may be confidently expected to show both more language power and more ability to adapt themselves to the social situations of business and ordinary intercourse.

Religion the Sole Foundation of Moral Standards and Conventions

By BISHOP WILLIAM T. MANNING, Episcopal, New York.

Stronger moral convictions and standards to enhance the moral fiber are necessary in upholding the nation's laws and institutions.

We see so many people today who are morally adrift and without clear standards or convictions. They tell us that these things are nothing but conventions; that there is no moral law which we are bound to obey. That view of life means ruin for the individual and for society. It means that they have lost their hold on religion and on God. It is religion alone that gives us more standards and conventions, and it is the only foundation of character, personal responsibility and citizenship and human life.

It is faith which makes human life great, and that makes it worth while. Doubt and uncertainty give no power to our lives. It is the man who believes great things who accomplishes great things. Faith lives in every human heart and the Christian religion lifts the faith that is in us up to its highest and noblest expression. All history shows that religion and morals stand together or fall together.

Increased Duration of Life Great Factor in Progress Made by World

By PROF. T. WINGATE TODD, Western Reserve University.

Longevity should be regarded as a social benefit as well as increased opportunity for living. The tremendous impetus of discovery and invention during the past century has undoubtedly been due in a large measure to the increased duration of life achieved by medical science.

Consider the magnificent work of Edison, Burbank, and Maxim during the ripe years of life denied to earlier generations. Once the old men of society, those of priceless wisdom and experience, died in the prime of their maturity. Today we have aged fathers and uncles from whom we absorb knowledge acquired through the slow years.

And the quickening conscience of the world in regard to human relations is undoubtedly influenced by the fact that we have so many old mothers still alive, blooming like evening primroses in the evening of life.

The average death age has been increased to fifty-six years, with an attendant advance in the old age "peak" from forty-two to seventy-two years.

Fundamental Essentials of Home Life More Than Food, Clothing and Shelter

By ALICE M. LOOMIS, Illinois Education Specialist.

No greater mistake can be made than the belief that food, clothing and shelter are the fundamental essentials of home life.

They are essentials, but is that all there is to living, to civilization or to racial development? Is that all there is to enjoying life? What we are striving for is to make the home a place for the mental, physical, moral and spiritual development of its members, and also a place from which each can prepare himself to do his full part in the next larger unit of society. This expanding of social interest has no limit, within the needs of the race, but it has a very natural starting point in the home.

The conviction grows that true home education in the school and family circle is a never-ending series of purposeful activities directed toward the advancing goal of the ideal home, and each has a part in the planning.

Know Your Sweetheart by His Handwriting

By EDNA PURDY WALSH
Editor, Character Reading Magazine.
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How His Mind Works
at once the
No Upstrokes, Trained Mind.

gently scan your
Many Upstrokes, Superfluous Talk.

"He is very intelligent!" When we say this about a person we should say in what way he is intelligent, for some of us may be very intelligent about stocks and bonds, but ignorant about ethics and things of the spirit. The logical, trained thinker who reasons and bases his conclusions on sound foundations which he sees with his physical eyes, leaves interesting things behind him in his writing. He leaves off most of the upstrokes to his letters, beginning such letters as u, m, n, etc., with a down stroke instead of an unnecessary upstroke. His trained mind does not care for superfluous.

The person who pens an upstroke to nearly every letter beginning, will talk all around a thing, but will not get "down to business"—will tell every unnecessary detail about some relative's relatives until the real story has been forgotten. Such a mind cannot make decisions quickly, nor shoulder much responsibility. The constantly intelligent person keeps the same slope to his writing throughout. Too much change indicates moods and emotions ruling.

One may be very intelligent in intuitive ways also, where ideas come as inspirations or "hunches." Such people write very often with many disconnected letters. The writing is usually light, and the d's and t's looped and high. Such people do not know how they reach their conclusions, yet they cannot be argued away from them. They feel them "physically."

More About Those Emotions

It is an interesting thing to note a person's letter (if it is written on unruled paper) to see if his emotions rule him, causing him ups and downs in life, or whether his head and single goal in life are steadily and calmly guiding him.

If his writing hews to the line, without ups and downs, he will "stay in his own back yard" digging away steadily at his task, persevering, and careful in his work. Scientists and detail workers hew to the line, without flashy ups and downs, while actors, dramatic salesmen, and quick

some time
Even Base Line.

one dollar
Uneven Base Line.

Inspirationalists will get off this line, feeling "way up" with this person and "way down" with that other one.

Do not expect the lover who writes an inflexible base line to learn dancing instantly, or to propose the first night. Do not expect the lover whose writing bobs up and down to become a successful bookkeeper all at once. He will become ill first, from suppression and restlessness, and irritability in such a position.

And the perfect copy book writer seldom becomes a creative artist or powerful writer. He is a better follower of other people's ideas.

Domestic troubles come from these differences of emotions in each other. If understood, the troubles vanish. The prosaic husband who loves in his own way should not be condemned for failing to enthuse, while the romantic one should be responded to and be given sufficient mental interest at home, instead of jealousies and scoldings, if we wish to keep his love.

Note.—Do not make final judgment until other signs in writing are studied.

Character in Business

Character is playing more and more importance in business, both from the side of the management and the side of the employee. Once every effort was made to obtain efficiency. While efficiency is an end of business today, the realization of the need for character has come to be a foremost thought of corporation leaders.—Thrift Magazine.

"Family of Nations"

In international law the phrase "Family of Nations" refers to an assemblage of states claiming a common civilization and a political and moral equality; specifically, the nations of Christendom in Europe and the New World, also the Ottoman empire (since the Treaty of Paris in 1856) and, more recently, Japan.

Wesley Made Rock Famous

There is a rock near Land's End which is called "Wesley's Rock," for it is said that it was there he wrote a famous hymn which contains the lines: "Lo on a narrow neck of land twist two unbounded seas I stand." Anyone who has stood on this point of rock will feel the force of those lines.—London Tit-Bits.

New Kite Interests the Aero Experts



Shown to the public for the first time, after more than 200 trial "flights," this huge passenger-carrying kite is being studied by aero experts at Los Angeles. Invented by George A. Argabrite, who has flown kites since school days, it has been tested and so far has carried 180 pounds aloft. The photo shows Mrs. Argabrite in the kite.

Scene of Christmas Celebration



In a secluded little dell, high up on the slopes of the California Sierras, stands the General Grant tree, patriarch of the great grove of sequoias of General Grant National park. Around the base of this tree will gather at high noon on Christmas day men and women from far and near to observe the second annual "Nation's Christmas Tree" celebration. The General Grant tree is more than four thousand years old, towers 264 feet in the air, measures 103 feet around the base and its greatest diameter is 40 feet.

New Apple Wins the Wilder Medal

Prof. C. P. Close, United States pomologist and chairman of the Wilder Medal commission, holding the Starking apple, evolution child of the famous Stark Delicious apple. The Starking apple won the Wilder medal at the recent annual meeting of the National Fruit Growers' association at Grand Rapids, Mich. It originated on a single limb of a tree in New Jersey.



ACCUSED OF MURDER



Portrait of Erdman Olson, the young Wisconsin man who has been indicted for the murder of his sweetheart, Clara Olson, and for whom the police of several states are looking.

ENVOY FROM FRANCE



Paul Claudel, distinguished diplomat and author, now French ambassador to Japan, who has been appointed to succeed M. Berenger as ambassador to Washington.

SENATOR FROM MAINE



Arthur R. Gould, Republican, who was elected United States senator from Maine to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Bert Fernald.