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OFFICIAL ORGAN Washington County Teachers' Association

Thoughts for the New Year

Another year has passed from us, carrying secrets that can only be revealed by the unfolding of the memories of the living, and ushering in the new year, which holds secrets that time alone can disclose. As we see the receding of the old and the coming in of the new, we cannot help but review the past, recount its blessings and joys, and plan for the future; looking for even greater favors to come to us from the hand that giveth bountifully. The past is an open book before us. We read its pages with joy as we see the hand of God in all its days, leading us to heights of victory, guiding us over the rough places and caring for us in the times when we hopelessly look in vain for the protection that the world offers; and yet sorrow comes as we think of opportunities so sacred, neglected; words of kindness, so needed, unspoken and deeds of love, so sought after, undone. This is the time of meditation and resolution; a time when we must "forget the things that are behind and reach forward to the things that are before," a time for consecration and prayer; for if there is ever a time when a man should really "come to himself" it is when, because of the passing of the years of his life, he realizes that the unknown future holds the secret of his destiny, which will soon be made known to him.

It is well that we should know nothing of the future, for our lives would only be saddened by knowing that dark shadows are sure to cross our path. One of the greatest burdens the Master had to bear was the knowledge that the Cross awaited him, and that if he would prove true to the trust committed he must bear this suffering in the end. The shadow of the Cross was thrown across his path all during his life's journey, and this, with the other burdens he was bearing, almost crushed him. How much heavier must have been the load, how much more intense the suffering, and how much greater the task of His life, because He could read the future and know all that must come to pass. We are blessed in a special way in that God has kept from us the things that are to befall us in the future. The people who are well through life's journey, having experienced its cares and trials, the unfaithfulness of friends, the separation from those they loved, having endured sicknesses and great losses, and knowing that death awaits them soon, if these, while in childhood, could have witnessed from some eminence all these things in the distance, would they not have been fearful of entering into such a life? There would, no doubt, have been a tinge of sadness in every day because of what was before them.

No one would feel like spending days, months, and even years, in an undertaking if he knew the end were failure, and yet the very fact that he had to endure the defeat would be a lesson of untold value in the life of the individual. This world is a great college and adversity and trouble are teachers in this school. The suffering that comes to the life changes the thoughtless acts into deeds of consideration, changes pride into modesty, selfishness into consideration and sympathy for others, the bad into good. It was this principle that was in the mind of the inspired writer when he said: "For it became Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons into glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering." Newell Dwight Hillis says of the economy of adversity that "steel is iron plus fire, tools are trees plus the gashing axe, statues are marble plus a chisel, every stroke makes the sparks fly, that which lets the flashing gold out of the quartz is not the soft shining of the sun, but the crushing of the stamp mills, the bronze doors of old cathedrals are all of hammered handwork, and character is hammered out on the anvil of adversity." Thus the sufferer must have these lessons—which are only taught in the school of experience, and which are wrought out by so much suffering on the part of the student—if he would know what diligence, patience, courage and hope really are. For, as he knows that victory is gained only by effort, and that it is possible only to those who labor, his very life is moulded by the effort. His work is a failure but he is not. His life is made better because he worked and suffered and endured. Not knowing then the future we should work as if a long life were before us, yet remembering that the success of the life depends on the use we make of the day that is ours.

The success of every life is attributed to some specific thing in the life. This particular incident may cover a lengthy period of time, yet it has been that which has shaped the destiny of the individual. With some it may be early training, with others, education, and with others, environment; yet, nowhere do we find the man whose life has been worth while, who did not have a real purpose in life and who did not make practical his purpose. This purpose was far reaching simply because the lack of knowledge of the future was coupled with high ambitions and aspirations, and the plan formed was as complete and far reaching as was the vision of the unknown future. So in this New Year's time as we follow the custom of the fathers in making resolutions, let us resolve that our actions during this coming year shall be such that the character formed will be well rounded and prepared in every way for the tests that come in life. Let it be a real New Year.

"New mercies, new blessings, new light on the way,
New courage, new hope and new strength for each day.
New notes of thanksgiving, new chords of delight,
New praise in the morning, new songs in the night."

Married men, according to a war authority over in England, are braver in battle than bachelors. Sure! They know more about fighting, says a confirmed old bachelor, who, of course, knows nothing about the subject.

Greetings to the New Year

Once again, the welcoming glad hand to the New Year.

Let us look to the morrow with confidence and courage—let us see in each face a friend—let us give in return as we receive, and do as we would be done by.

Let's look out upon this great, busy, throbbing world with eyes not blinded to its beauties—let us accept the good things that are freely ours, rather than search for that which we do not want to find.

In this good year and all that may follow it, let us do our work for the love of it—let us labor to accomplish—let us look to the joys that come from a task well done, rather than to the money-price we are paid for the doing of it.

Above all, let us be thankful that we are here to welcome this glad New Year—and let us "keep books" in such a manner that when again comes the time to turn the new leaf, the record will be all that it should be—and more.

Hunt for The Brighter Side.

We had occasion, a few days ago, to listen to a few remarks from one of our Forest Grove citizens which were of a decidedly pessimistic nature. In fact, the gentleman was giving voice to complaints about everything in general and his own hark luck in particular, and absolutely failing to find one ray of brightness to offset.

We can summarize such tirades under one general head—grumbling—a habit it is the easiest thing in the world to form. The occasional discontent at one's lot soon develops into chronic pessimism, a state of mind that sheds gloom around and completely over shadows the natural brightness of every normal, healthy being.

There's an old saying that puts the matter in a nutshell: "If you can't have what you like, like what you have." Try and see the good that may lie far beneath the surface of your lot, and in the effort to unearth it there will be developed a greater strength to withstand the harder knocks of the world.

The grumbler is a very unwelcome person. He is in a constant state of displeasure with everything in general and with himself in particular; it is a reputation that few of us envy or court, and one that if care be not used in the daily attitude toward life, will grow upon us until we are the slaves of a disagreeable habit.

No, Homer, the misses won't be quite so indulgent now that Xmas has passed.

We have often thought Kunkel's "Alpine Storm" would be a good thing for an alarm clock to play.

An automobile is no sure sign that a man has money," remarks a contemporary. No, but it helps throw an awful bluff, though.

A Tacoma girl has started a lottery with tickets at \$1 each and herself as the prize. We hate to think it, but it looks like an old maid trick.

"How two can live on \$8 per week," is the title of a small pamphlet published by a Chicago man. We venture to say he patronized the free lunch route while engaged in compiling the literary gem.

Some men who cannot raise a hair on their bald heads can raise a lot of dough simply by signing a check. Hair isn't everything in this world.

"Of what value is a silver tongue when silence is golden?" asks an exchange. Teddy can probably give the proper answer, as he seems to be gifted both ways.

Who says men are not vain? Here's a fellow at Hoquiam, Wash., who attempted suicide because of lack of beauty.

Woman secured a divorce in South Dakota and now wants the New York state courts to confirm the decree. This does not say much for the legality of South Dakota justice.

A man was arrested in Portland for stiking a woman, and the best they could do for him was five days on the rockpile. About five years would have been more like justice.

If you want to work as a telephone girl in Spokane, it will be necessary to furnish a bond in the sum of \$500 not to marry within six months. Must be shy on girls in the metropolis of the Inland Empire.

A lone disciple of Jesse James held up and robbed an S. P. train within the city limits of El Paso, Texas, and got way with the goods. Texans are certainly deteriorating when a stunt like that can be pulled off.

A Southern Oregon exchange advises that women are very, very hard to understand. We will bet dollars to doughnuts with holes in them, that in Southern Oregon they haven't yet become aware of the fact that the war is over.

The Washington legislature may pass a law compelling all big game hunters to wear red coats during the open season. If they will make it life imprisonment for every aspiring hunter who kills a human being in mistake for game, probably few accidents will be recorded.

The Benton County Republican of Corvallis, Ore., in its issue of Dec. 22, has the following to say relative to exhibition of pictures for the benefit of public schools:

"The exhibit has proved an unqualified success as a public exhibition and as a means of art education to the children. There is a growing feeling among the patrons of the schools that such exhibitions should be repeated from time to time. Such is the practice in many cities throughout the nation. The value and exceedingly practical nature of these exhibits is now recognized by progressive educators everywhere."

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6:50 a m	8:00 a m
8:40 a m	9:50 a m
10:30 a m	11:40 a m
12:20 p m	1:30 p m
1:40 p m	2:50 p m
4:10 p m	5:20 p m
7:00 p m	8:10 p m
9:45 p m	10:50 p m

LEAVES Portland	ARRIVES Forest Grove
7:05 a m	8:15 a m
8:30 a m	9:40 a m
10:20 a m	11:50 a m
12:10 p m	1:20 p m
2:10 p m	3:20 p m
3:30 p m	4:40 p m
5:30 p m	6:40 p m
8:25 p m	9:35 p m

Saturday Only
Lvs Portland 11:30 p m—Ar. F.G. 12:35 a m
Sunday only
Lvs F.G. 3:30 p m—Ar. at Portland 4:40 p m

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