

Each New Meaning to Biblical Injunction.

It is a popular fallacy that it is much easier to be bad than good. So firmly rooted is this error that it is universally accepted. H. Varley writes in Judge.

Yet it is very easy to demonstrate the absurdity of it. Imagine yourself, for a moment, having decided to be as bad as possible. Throw off all thought of convention of law, of caring for the opinions of others and of heeding the still, small voice within you.

Here you are then, ready to be bad. Not just ordinarily, pretty bad—but bad to the nth degree.

What shall you do? Murder? That's silly, for there is none you hate enough and if there was the fear of eventually sitting in a chair not upholstered for comfort but for speedy demise would deter you from murder.

Rob a bank? However delightful the prospect, you can't tear open iron bars with your bare hands nor dig through granite with your fingernails. Elope with your neighbor's wife? That is the most ridiculous of all, for you know your neighbor and that removes any wish to endure, even for a moment, what he suffers indefinitely.

So you stand, and mentally go through the whole category of badness without finding a single thing you can do without much more trouble than you could perform some good deed. The worst you can picture yourself doing (that is feasible) is such a common peccadillo that you must despise it for its very littleness.

So you see the difficulty of being just a little bad—the utter impossibility of being really bad.

Then the Biblical injunction comes to you with an entirely new meaning: "The way of the transgressor is hard."

MONKEYS ACTUALLY AT WORK

Ingenious English Officer Devised Scheme by Which They Earn Their Daily Bread.

Monkeys actually are made to work in Malabar, India, which is perhaps the only place in the world where they earn their salt. The Malabar monkey is of the fine species known as the langur. It is very warm at Malabar, and there is a fan called the punka, which used to be kept in motion by a slave.

It required a slave to work each punka, but now every punka in Malabar is worked by a monkey. It was an English officer who conceived the idea of making the langur work in that manner. The fan is a movable frame covered with canvas and suspended from the ceiling. The motion is caused by pulling a cord. The officer tied the hands of a langur to one of the cords, and then by means of another cord put the machine in motion.

Of course, the monkey's hand went up and down, and the animal wondered what sort of a game was being played. Then the officer pulled its head and fed it with candy till soon the langur thought it fine fun to work the punka. The experiment was successful, and now thousands of monkeys are in harness.

Who Built It?

Summing up his interpretation of the Amiens cathedral, the "Bible of Amiens," Ruskin asks:

"Who built it, shall we ask? God and man is the first true answer. The stars in their courses built it, and the nations. Greek Athens labors here, and the Roman Father Jove and Guardian Mars. The Gaul labors here and the Frank; kingly Norman, mighty Ostrogoth and wasted anchorite of Idumea. The actual man who built it scarcely cared to tell you he did so; nor do the historians brag of him. Any quantity of heraldries of knaves and faineants you may find in what they call their history; but this is probably the first time you ever read the name of Robert of Luzarches. I may be 'scarcely cared;' we are not sure that he cared at all. He signed his name nowhere, that I can hear of. You may perhaps find some recent initials cut by English remarkable visitors desirous of immortality, here and there about the edifice, but Robert the builder, or at least the master of that building, cut his on no stone of it."

Give "Overt" a Chance.

Many a fine adjective has been spoiled by being hooked up, in some facile phrase, to a commonplace noun. For example, overt. Never in my life, writes H. L. Mencken in the New York Sun, have I encountered overt save in front of a net. Thus joined and poisoned, it is mouthed abominably by lawyers and newspaper editorial writers; the literate fauna of a superior type avoid it almost altogether. And yet it is a fine adjective, a juicy adjective, an adjective worth knowing better. Why not overt honesty, overt destiny, overt love? I once had an overt black eye. Earlier in this life I made overt eyes at a girl overtly red-haired, and remember her oleaginous kiss every time the barber's brush slides across my face. Let us appoint a committee to get overt out of jail.

A Useful Husband.

"Why in the world does his wife call him Picket Fence?" "Well, she says he's easy to see through."

"And, then, he's very useful around the house."

Another Matter.

"How do you propose to support my daughter, young man?" "But I'm only proposing to marry her, sir."

Requisite of the Really Great Commander.

War is wont to be associated with the physical rather than the intellectual or moral qualities, says Col. Theo. A. Dodge in the Forum. The idea of youth and strength and ardor is coupled with the military profession. Alexander at the Granicus, Scipio at Zama, Napoleon in '06, McClellan in '62, represent to the popular fancy the typical soldier. But war, from the standpoint of the captain, is primarily an intellectual process. The successful conduct of a campaign requires, first, exceptional mental powers; next, moral qualities of a high order; and last, a physique to withstand the drain of unremitting mental and nervous tension. The gladiatorial courage which prompted the little Roman legionary to close in upon the burly Teuton with the sword, or the prize-fighting pluck which carried the guards through the day at Waterloo, are not as essential to the captain as the moral force which on the broad strategic field helps him to push his own scheme home despite the threatening maneuvers of his opponent, which on the narrower field of battle enables him to risk the lives of thousands of his men upon the result of a calculation, or to watch with equisense the compromising movements of his adversary, or to hold back his battalions for the supreme moment, are not as essential as that self-reliance which prompts him to great undertakings and sustains him through their performance.

FIRE ENGINES OF ALL SORTS

First Were Primitive Indeed Compared With the Splendid Ones in Use Today.

The first fire engine seen in America was received at Boston in 1679. It was made in England, and was of the type called "hand squirts." The instrument required the labor of three men, one on each side to hold the machine steady and to direct the nozzle, while the third man worked the plunger.

This contrivance was not much of an improvement over the "siphons used in conflagrations," described by Hero of Alexandria in his work on pneumatics, written about 150 B. C. At the close of the seventeenth century a slight advance was made in Newham's improved engine, patented in England, which consisted of a strong cistern of oak, mounted on wheels, and a suction pipe of leather.

Steam fire engines had their beginning in England in 1830, when Brathwaite built an engine of six horsepower, weighing 5,000 pounds. Though its performances were highly spoken of, this attempt to apply steam to fire engines cannot be said to have been successful, owing to its great weight. A. B. Latta of Cincinnati built an engine that was a vast improvement over its predecessors, and it was in the Ohio city, in 1863, that the steam fire engine first definitely supplanted the old style of fire-fighting apparatus.

Statues of Great Men.

The fashion of placing statues of popular heroes in parks and squares has prevailed for a long time, and is apparently not losing any of the popular favor, says the Ave Maria. It would not be so prevalent, however, if Rossini's plan were carried out.

The great Italian composer was waited on one day by a delegation who informed him that a statue of himself was to be erected in white marble, and that it would adorn the public square of his natal city. The artist inquired how much the statue would cost.

"Twelve thousand francs," was the reply.

"Well," said Rossini, "give me that sum, and on state occasions I'll go and stand on the pedestal myself, so that instead of a mere copy you'll have the original."

Commercial Morals Low in Japan.

China, for long centuries a highly developed nation, has an elaborate code of commercial ethics. Japan, on the other hand, which is a nation comparatively new to civilization, is not so scrupulous, says a writer in System. He continues:

"In Japan they say a contract is never a settled thing, whereas in China it is absolutely binding. The Japanese admit they have no traditions in trade, and the average Japanese merchant is firmly convinced that if he orders goods today, and the market declines before they arrive, he does perfectly right to refuse them. Banks in Japan recognize this trait in Japanese character. There is no such thing as lending money to a man on his personal note."

Power of the Old Song.

Consider the old song. Immediately all the things that make up the present existence fade into dim obscurity and for a while, for the duration of the melody at least, we live in glory of the song and its association.

One thing has remained the same and that is the song. The years have made no change in the beauty or the meaning of that. In the face of the constant change and activities which men man's existence and the world's progress, the song has remained the same.

With the keen insight of human nature, authors have been appreciative of the power of the haunting melody, and have made it the theme of their work.

Only One Is Really Popular in the State.

The Hassayampa is an Arizona river which stands for the spirit of his native desert to the son of western Arizona. There are two legends connected with the waters of Hassayampa, one subscribed to by natives and the other by irreverent aliens. Both parties agree that the waters of this desert stream have powers surpassing the normal.

According to the native of Arizona, whoever shall taste the waters of Hassayampa is thenceforward bound to the Arizona desert by ties stronger than bonds of steel. Drink once of the magic current, and you must inevitably return to drink again. "Wherever you may wander, in some quiet hour you will hear the Hassayampa calling, and whether you are in Cape Town or Hongkong or Port Said, you will forthwith take ship on the trail of another drink. That is why the Arizonians in foreign states and lands frequently band themselves into clubs called Hassayampas."

A look at the Hassayampa itself will convince the unprejudiced stranger that some magic power must reside in the waters. Otherwise nobody would want a second drink.

The other legend of the Hassayampa is more often retailed by aliens, though occasionally a native will admit its prevalence and the existence of a certain amount of corroborative evidence. This legend affirms that whoever takes a drink of Hassayampa water is thenceforward utterly and constitutionally incapable of telling the truth on any important matter. So firmly established did this belief become that at one period of Arizona history, instead of applying the short and ugly term to a man, they called him a "Hassayampa," which is a term certainly long and in the opinion of some persons beautiful.—Chicago News.

BEFORE DAYS OF PRINTING

People Then Employed Two Forms of Writing, the Manuscript and Cursive Hand.

The differences between script and print are to be referred to a date long before the invention of printing. We must not suppose that the ancient scribes, in writing papers of but temporary value, would labor to follow the same alphabet that the carver employed upon the monuments of stone destined for all time. As far back as records have been preserved there was in existence a cursive style of writing. Instances have been preserved abundantly in Pompeii of random remarks by the ordinary citizen scribbling idle sentiments upon the walls.

The alphabet of the monuments was commonly the model for the writers of formal literature, professional penmen who looked forward to the library preservation of the works upon which they were engaged. Business men used the cursive script, which was far more readily and correspondingly more rapidly written. The monumental and manuscript hand has served as the parent of the printed letter; the cursive hand is the ancestor of penmanship.

Hindoo Prince and Missionaries.

Never shall I forget a frank conversation which I had in his palace with his highness the ghekarwar of Baroda, relates a correspondent. He told me of some of the measures which he has already introduced for the betterment of his subjects and of the difficulties which he had encountered. His admiration for things American is so unqualified as to be almost naive, but I think I was most of all impressed when he said: "I am thinking of calling together the missionaries and asking them to tell me their views on how we can improve the quality of the native priesthood. Then I want to call the priests together and say to them, 'Look at the missionaries. See the sacrifices they are making to help our people. You ought to go out and do the same kind of work.'" His highness has already established a professorship of comparative religions in the Baroda college for the express purpose of introducing the native religious leaders to other religions with a view of improving the quality of their own.

Buy a War Saving Stamp.

Was Published, Edited by the Elector's Physician.

The first Berlin newspaper was printed in 1661 in the reign of the Elector of Brandenburg. The paper was edited by Cornelius Bontekoe, a Hollander, physician to the Elector. Robert Voelker and Elias Locker, booksellers, were privileged to sell the paper. It was a weekly and appeared Sunday morning; the clerks of the booksellers would sell the papers, in winter before, and in summer after church, which was held in the open from May to September. Those of the young men who could not get a seat were allowed to climb in the trees to listen to the sermon.

With his wife, Louise, and the children and the household, the elector went regularly to church. He would, as a rule, remain standing, while the electress and children would occupy seats under the trees. After the closing prayer the newspaper sale commenced at the entrance gate. Rupert Voelker, the first bookseller of Berlin, was allowed to give the elector a copy. After church the electress and children would return to the palace, while the elector would enter a palanquin and be carried to the Lustgarten. There he would read the paper, and then give audience to artists and other learned men.

One Sunday a man was introduced who entertained the elector (who believed in the appearance of the devil in some form or another) with a story which had happened to a farmer at the Berlin gate.

"At the Berlin gate," he said, "the farmer's horses stopped suddenly. He left his wagon to coax them to go, but coaxing and cursing would not take them a step farther. The farmer turned his head and saw an ugly woman on his wagon, blaspheming God and promising the farmer wealth. Then the farmer said: 'All good spirits.' The woman did not move. The farmer got angry and said: 'Will you ride? Then ride in Jesus' name,' and the woman, the devil, vanished from the wagon."

The elector was greatly interested in the story and ordered the physician-editor to have the story published in the next issue of the paper as a lesson to others not to be tempted by riches. Current news was not allowed to be published. Court functions and fables would find more favor with the Berliners. A bookseller from Leipzig came to Berlin to publish another paper, which was promptly forbidden by the elector, who considered one newspaper sufficient for Berlin.

Wells Doesn't See It Through.

An edifying little wrangle between Messrs. Wells and Jerome has been aborning the correspondence columns of the London Daily News. Mr. Jerome wrote something about a "League of Reason." Mr. Wells then saddled Mr. Jerome with the elegant reproach of "slobbering with love and forgiveness about the neck of the Kaiser, the crown prince, Reventlow and the Krupp family." Mr. Jerome, very naturally, retorted that he had done nothing of the sort, whereupon Mr. Wells criticized Mr. Jerome for holding opinions which Mr. Jerome subsequently stated he did not hold. After a few more interchanges of compliments the editor of our contemporary has printed a further letter of Mr. Jerome's, despite a pressing invitation of his for further remarks by Mr. Wells, with the intimation, "This correspondence is now closed." This embargo places Mr. Wells in the unusual position of being unable to have the last word.

Mental and Physical Work.

Mark Twain wrote as follows on this subject:

"There are wise people who talk ever so knowingly and complacently about the working classes, and satisfy themselves that a day's hard intellectual work is very much harder than a day's hard manual toil, and is rightfully entitled to much bigger pay. Why, they really think that, you know, is because they know all about the one, but haven't tried the other. But I know all about both; and so far as I am concerned, there isn't money enough to hire me to swing a pickaxe thirty days, but I will do the hardest kind of intellectual work for just as near nothing as you can cipher it down—and I will be satisfied, too."

Buy a War Saving Stamp.

LIBERTY THEATRE

Saturday, August 17

TAYLOR HOLMES

Master Mimicrlist, in

"Efficiency Edgar's Courtship"



Taylor Holmes in "Efficiency Edgar's Courtship"

Edgar was known as a stickler for detail and when it came to discipline, his office force made the regular army look like a Coxe brigade. Enter romance and Edgar discovered there was one game in which his correspondence course was of no avail. His research into the workings of the feminine mind furnishes a wealth of laughable situations.

Five Part Human Interest Comedy

From The Saturday Evening Post Story

ON A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT

A car was stalled on a lonely road. No house within miles, no food in the locker. The baby crying, 'n "everything!"

Had the driver listened to his better sense, he would have reached home and its comforts long ago, but he took a chance and did not attend to those

REPAIRS

he knew ought to have been taken care of before he started on the trip. IT DOESN'T PAY!

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