

The Observer.

MORO, OREGON:
FRIDAY, DEC. 14, 1906

Personal Talk With You.

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The Tone of the Neighborhood

W. Crawford Sherlock

"It's simply outrageous," declared Mrs. Bagby emphatically. "To think that people should have moved to West Park is just awful!"

"It's worse when you live opposite them," moaned Mrs. Pratt. "I saw that detestable man sitting on his porch last night in his shirt sleeves, smoking a miserable clay pipe."

"That isn't all," chimed in Mrs. Waters, who managed to gain more information about her neighbors' doings than any one else in West Park. "His wife actually scrubbed the porch this afternoon in full view of every one. I saw this Mr. Smith—I believe that's his name—grooming his own horse this morning. They're just common people, that's all they are, not to have servants to do such things."

"I wish Mr. Elder had not sold them his cottage," deplored Mrs. Bagby. "I



AT THIS MOMENT MR. JOHN SMITH DROVE PAST.

didn't think he would let any but nice people have it. It's a shame to ruin our property this way."

"Much Mr. Elder cared," retorted Mrs. Waters scornfully. "He got his price for the cottage; that's all he wanted. Something must be done of the tone of the neighborhood will be lowered."

Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Bagby were of the same opinion, but they could make no suggestion as to how relief could be afforded. At this moment the topic of conversation, James Smith, who had recently occupied a cottage in the fashionable suburb of West Park, drove past the house of Mrs. Bagby in a runabout. He was a short, stout, red-faced man, wearing an exceedingly loud suit of clothes and an air of indifference to the opinion of the world.

"He looks like a gambler," sniffed Mrs. Waters contemptuously. "He'll have all sorts of low companions down here, and West Park will be exclusive no longer."

"I'll tell you what we'll do," remarked Mrs. Pratt, who, on account of her proximity to the objectionable neighbor, was more anxious for his removal than West Park. "We'll buy the cottage from this man and sell it to some desirable person. We will have to pay more than it's worth and sell it at a loss, but it's better to lose a little than to have our neighborhood ruined."

"I will," declared Mrs. Pratt, who was a widow of ample means. "All I want is for every one to stand by me and pay a proportion of whatever loss we have. It won't be much if it is divided among so many. The men aren't having anything to do with it. They'd get some one to buy the cottage who wouldn't be any better than this Smith is."

Having been promised the required support, Mrs. Pratt, accompanied by Mrs. Bagby and Mrs. Waters, waited upon Mr. James Smith with the purpose of purchasing the Elder cottage. As the ladies approached the house of Mr. Smith, who was sitting upon the porch in his shirt sleeves, arose and greeted them cordially as he knocked the ashes from his clay pipe.

"Just take seats on the porch. It's cooler out here. Wait a minute, and I'll call Marthy."

"Horrid creature!" murmured Mrs. Waters as Mr. Smith disappeared in search of his wife. "He thinks we have come to pay a social call."

Marthy, in response to her husband's vigorous calls, speedily made her appearance, and the party were soon comfortably seated upon the porch.

"Ahem!" Mr. Smith began. "Mrs. Pratt somewhat extensively, after politely declining Mrs. Smith's urgent request for the removal of the visitors' hats, 'we've come upon a matter of business.'"

"Jim!" he said to do anything he can for you," observed Marthy anxiously. "He's the most accommodating man in the world. Always likes to be friendly-like."

"That's so, mem," assented Mrs. Smith affably. "Let's hear what your business is, mem."

"You're very comfortably fixed here, Mr. Smith," continued Mrs. Pratt, "and I don't know just how to tell you. There are some people very anxious to

buy this house, and they would be willing to pay you something over what was paid for it. It would make much difference to you as you have no children and one place is as good as another."

"As to children, mem," responded Mr. Smith thoughtfully, "there will be five of them down here next week. 'Twasn't right to bring 'em till we got things fixed up a bit."

Constitution returned in the breasts of the visitors. Five little Smiths running wild in West Park! There would not be a whole pane of glass in the place in two weeks. The necessity for getting rid of the Smith family was greater than before.

"We will give you \$250 more than you paid for the property," offered Mrs. Pratt in a businesslike tone. "That will be a good profit in so short a time. Will you take it?"

"Couldn't think of it, mem," returned the affable Mr. Smith. "I wouldn't pay for the expenses of moving both ways."

"Will you take \$500?"

Mr. Smith had never moved in good society, but he was nevertheless a man of keen judgment. A faint smile appeared around the corners of his rather large mouth, and his gray eyes twinkled merrily.

"This place was for sale a long time before Mr. Elder sold it, wasn't it, mem?" he questioned, eying Mrs. Pratt closely. "It's a pity your folks didn't buy it."

"They didn't want the house then," replied Mrs. Pratt evasively. "Will you take the \$500, Mr. Smith?"

"Then there's two or three houses in West Park, just as good as this one, that can be bought for the price this 'cottage cost,'" continued Mr. Smith, not heeding Mrs. Pratt's question. "I can't quite make it out, mem, unless—"

"Unless what?" demanded Mrs. Pratt, not relishing the searching glance Mr. Smith fixed upon her.

"Unless, mem," continued Mr. Smith slowly, "you don't sorter think me and Marthy good enough for West Park and want to get rid of us?"

"Oh, Mr. Smith!" demurred the three visitors in chorus, "but the telltale flushes on their cheeks betrayed the consternation that had been wrought by the unexpected words."

"What makes you think such a thing?"

"Well, ladies," returned Mr. Smith, without the slightest trace of ill feeling. "I saw one of you pass the other evening when I was a-sittin' here in my shirt sleeves, and that one's nose was turned up so far that it was 'traid it would get out of 'fist. Then, when another of you folks saw Marthy a-washin' of 'is 'ere porch, that one's mouth got all puckered up as if she had been eatin' periwinkles. I guess you think we ain't good enough for West Park."

"We look at it this way, Mr. Smith," stammered Mrs. Pratt nervously, feeling devotedly sorry that she had undertaken the plan of purchasing the cottage. "We don't think you are—ahem—"

"One moment, ladies," called Mr. Smith as the visitors descended the steps. "Me and Marthy won't lower the tone of this neighborhood. We don't own this house—not much! Marthy she's the cook, and I'm the gardener. We just come down to fix up the place for Mr. Norwood, who's comin' down next week with his wife and children and three more servants."

"Good evening," chorused the visitors, indignant at the failure of their plan and crestfallen at Mr. Smith's correct surmise of their view regarding him.

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PEN, PENCIL AND BRUSH.

Pierre Loti, the French author, has just been promoted from captain of frigates to captain of battleships. He has never quitted his service in the navy.

Mary J. Holmes, author of about half a hundred novels which have been widely read, resides in Brockport, N. Y., where she has lived some fifty years. Her first novel was published in 1854, and almost every year since she has produced another book.

Carl Lunde, a Norwegian artist, has made himself famous by painting on metal, an art even the Japanese have failed to great as they are as metal workers. Lunde decorates ordinary tin with characteristic designs in colors and illuminates an ordinary tray or plate that would otherwise be cheaply jettisoned.

A Montgomery, the well known Illinois artist, never took a lesson either in color or technique in his life, yet one of his pictures sold for \$20,000 in Paris, and other products of his easel and brush have commanded the highest prices from some of the most expert temporary artists and have brought big prices in the world's most exclusive art centers.

GLEANINGS.

The total of a Japanese bill is put at the top of the items below.

Russia is fortifying Harbin with the intention of making it a second Port Arthur.

A recent notable discovery has added tin to the metals (lead, silver and copper) which were already known to exist in the Transvaal.

Leoproy in Norway has been strictly limited in prevalence to the laboring part of the community—to the fishermen, the boatmen and peasants who lead extremely hard lives.

A swallow brought down by a shot near Taranto, in Italy, was found to carry a paper tied to its neck upon which a political prisoner in the Turin jail had written a few lines, ending with the words: "Long live the republic! Long live the social revolution!"

Timbuktu is being proclaimed to the world as a Nimrod's paradise. Recently a small party of sportsmen bagged five elephants in the Gouna district. It is declared that in more than one district of eighteen miles square more than 200 head of elephants may be found.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL.

There is a school in Webster that has six pupils and the instruction has to cover five grades.

The will of the late William Drury, probated, gives to his home city, Alameda, a fine college, to be known as the William and Vashita. The institution will be of a polytechnic character.

The students at the several colleges in Rome wear ecclesiastical garb, but, according to such sacred tradition, each is different in its color. In Germany are the most conspicuous in long, single-breasted, close buttoned coats of brilliant scarlet.

Dr. Henry Hard, professor of physiology and superintendent of the hospital at Johns Hopkins university, has been given a year's leave of absence to travel in Europe for his health. His place will be filled by Dr. Rupert Norton, son of the celebrated Roman scholar, Professor Charles Elliot Norton of Harvard.

Portland Cement.

The hardest of all cements is that known as portland cement, which, when hardened, attains the appearance and properties of the celebrated portland stone, from which the most magnificent structures in England have been erected. It was invented in 1824 by Joseph Aspdin, a mason of Leeds.

A Bold Step.

To overcome the well-grounded and reasonable objections of the more intelligent to the use of secret medicinal compounds, Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., some time ago, decided to make a bold departure from the usual course pursued by the makers of put-up medicines for domestic use, and so has published broad-cast and openly to the whole world, a full and complete list of all the ingredients entering into the composition of his widely celebrated medicines. Thus he has taken his numerous patients and patients into his full confidence. This too he has removed his medicines from among secret nostrums of doubtful merit, and made them medicines of known merit.

By this bold step Dr. Pierce has shown that his formulas are of such excellence that he is not afraid to subject them to the test of publicity.

Not only does the wrapper of every bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, his famous medicine for weak stomach, indigestion, or of his famous medicine for the blood, contain a list of the ingredients entering into the composition of his medicines, but a small book has been prepared containing a full and complete list of all the ingredients entering into the composition of his medicines, and a full and complete list of all the ingredients entering into the composition of his medicines.

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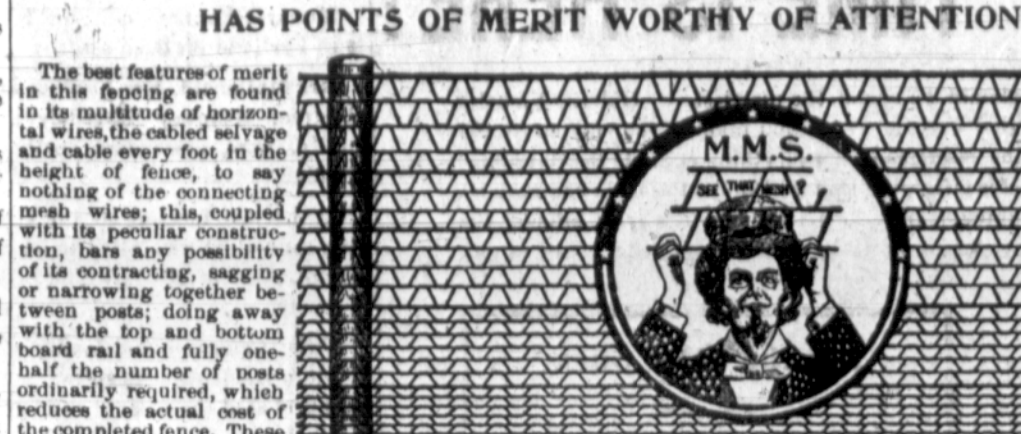
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