

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

PIONEERING STILL COMPARATIVELY HARD.

By John A. Howland.

Forty years ago the United States saw the great movement to the west. Everywhere in the Mississippi valley country the resident saw the white prairie schooner drifting, as if with some vast tide wind, westward. "Kansas, or Bust"—any other place westward, "or bust"—was the motto painted upon the weather beaten white canvas of the wagons. Within the last year or more history has been repeating itself in a great measure. With the price of the round trip ticket and money for meals in his pockets, the young man-to-day may cover in hours a territory which required weeks and months in the early '70s. Many of these young men have been doing this; more of them will follow.

The old westerner of to-day decries the degenerating of the west as he found it. It is lacking in most of those old hardships and privations which required all his manhood to withstand when he was pathfinder in the wilderness. Sharp as present day comparisons may be between the city and the new west, the old westerner looks upon it as child's play—dilettante, effeminate.

He has forgotten that his hardships are half a century behind him now. He overlooks the fact that the desert upon which he settled has been blossoming for these many years. But blossoming as it may have been, civilized as the newer west-to-day is, that young man from the centers of city life will find crude flowering of the wilderness compared with the diversions and ease of the city which he has left so far behind him. He will need all his fortitude and spirit of his fathers.

FARMER OWNS NATION.

By Isaac P. Marcossion.

The farmer, not the money king of Wall street, is the real owner of the United States. The gleam of his fields is another Aladdin story, only instead of rubbing a lamp he has simply scraped the ground.

Our cereal crops last year were worth \$3,000,000,000, which is sufficient to pay for all the tools, implements and machinery of the whole of American industry. While this sum seems huge as it stands alone, you have only to go back a few years in the story of our agriculture to see the miracle of steady increase that has been achieved. Eleven years ago the value of all our farm products for a single year was reckoned at \$4,417,000,000. You have already seen how that figure was doubled by 1909. During these years the sum total that the soil has yielded the farmers is \$70,000,000,000. The advance is so steady and sure that you can almost calculate upon it year by year.

Compare this record with the ebb and flow of earnings in steel or any other industry, and you will realize as never before how agriculture keeps the even tenor of

its prosperous way, unmindful of panic or depression. Why? Simply because land is stable, and, given proper methods of farming, the more you take out of it the more valuable it becomes. It cannot be moved away; it is, in truth, the very foundation of the nation's material welfare. It would take \$24,000,000,000 to buy our farm lands, and their value is real and not watered, save by irrigation.—Munsey's.

UNPROGRESSIVE AMERICA.

By Clifford Howard.

We of this big republic complacently affirm the glory of our national achievements, and are not without temptation to acclaim them as proof of superior craft and judgment. But herein do we forget that we are on record as having cast our vote against every move that has contributed to the present century's development. We raised our voices in contemptuous protest against the first projected railways. Had the locomotive awaited its signal from the people, it would not yet have started. When the electric telegraph was shown to us we brushed it aside as a toy, and laughed its inventor to scorn when he offered to sell us his rights for a few thousand dollars. We put into jail as an impostor the first man that brought anthracite coal to market. We broke to pieces Howe's sewing machine as an invention calculated to ruin the working classes; and we did the same thing to the harvester and the binder. We scorned the typewriter as a plaything. We gathered together in mass meetings of indignation at the first proposal to install electric trolley lines, and when Dr. Bell told us he had invented an instrument by means of which we might talk to one another across the town we responded with accustomed ridicule, and only the reckless among us contributed to its being.—The Atlantic.

EXCUSES FOR ADVERSITY.

By Willard Dillman.

By exercising sufficient good will, it is possible to believe that every adversity has its appointed use. The reviving breath of spring has no meaning in a land where winter is a myth. Health, which in its abundance is hardly held at a pin's fee, when it has once been lost will be diligently sought after at earth's furthest ends. Bread and meat, common to the point of being despised, to the starving become prizes of rarest luster. What is so precious to the aged man as those golden hours which in his youth he flung away like grass? The joy that is vouchsafed to-day may be magnified in retrospect by future adversity, and should be the more eagerly enjoyed on that account. In like manner present disasters will be the better borne by considering that they may serve to heighten the pleasure of comforts that are on the way.

TOOK THE GUARD'S PLACE.

Dr. Byles Shouldered a Gun and Kept Himself from Escaping.

One of the most famous of the old Puritan divines was Dr. Mather Byles, who was born in Boston in 1706 and who was the first pastor of the Hollis Street Congregational church, to which he ministered for more than 40 years.

Dr. Byles was famous as a humorist and wit, and innumerable anecdotes are related of his clever quips and retorts. He was a zealous Tory and warmly advocated the cause of "the mother country" against the colonies. In November, 1777, he was arrested as a Tory, tried, convicted and sentenced to be confined on board a guard ship and sent to England with his family within 40 days. The sentence was afterward commuted by the board of war to confinement in his own house, a guard being placed over him with instructions not to permit him to leave his residence for a moment under any circumstances.

On Thanksgiving morning, observing that the sentinel, who, like many of the colonial soldiers, was a simple rustic, had disappeared and that Dr. Byles himself was pacing up and down before his own door with a musket on his shoulder, the neighbors crossed the street to inquire the cause of this singular spectacle.

"You see," said Dr. Byles, "I begged my guard to let me go out to procure some cider with which myself and family might celebrate Thanksgiving day, but he would not permit me to stir. I argued the point with him, and he has now gone to get the cider for me on condition that I keep guard over myself during his absence."

The Languages of Paradise.

Every language has its admirers; in "Lucile" the author, "Owen Meredith," maintained that when he heard French spoken as he approved he "found himself quietly falling in love."

Edward Hutton is another instance of this linguistic fascination. In stating his preference in his enchanting "Cities of Spain," he recalls an interesting medieval legend. He says:

And as I listened to the splendid syllables of the Castilian tongue that rang eloquently through the twilight, I remembered the saying of that old Spanish doctor of woe James Howell: "Instructions for Forraire Travell," to wit, that Spanish, Italian and French, these three languages of the Latin language, were spoken in Paradise: that God Almighty created the world in Spanish, the Tempter persuaded Eve in Italian, and Adam begged pardon in French.

A Brief Love Story.

The Syrian patrol halted before the open window of the khan's captive, a girl from the hills. "A message from my lord, and laid upon the edge of the lattice a spray of almond."

The girl ripped off the delicate blossoms and handed back the barren twigs.

"The answer," she said.

YESTERDAYS.



THE OLD-TIME REVIVAL.

"You young folks back there, with your hearts so light, you feet so gay!"—Minneapolis Journal.

FRENCH MAID OF ALL WORK.

Multifarious Duties of Bonne on a Salary of \$10 a Month.

In Paris the post of servant is not an easy one; this is, of course, judging the household to be one of ordinary means, with one maid or two at the very most. An average French family having an income between 12,000 and 15,000 francs a year (which is considered comfortable here) will employ one maid. She is known as a *bonne* a tout faire, maid of all work, and the care of the entire household falls to her. Blanche Alder Van Buren, writing in the Woman Beautiful, says she rises at about 6 o'clock, cleans the boots, brushes skirts and coats and prepares the traditional French breakfast of coffee and rolls. She then takes the little ones to school, as no children of good family go out alone. Upon her return madame perhaps has straightened the bed-rooms and is ready to go out to market with the maid. Sometimes the *bonne* does the buying alone, especially when she has been with the family some time or has gained the confidence of her mistress. When luncheon is safely on its way the mistress keeps an eye on its progress while the *bonne* goes for the children. Luncheon is the first important meal in the French home and consists of an egg or meat dish, a salad, a vegetable and dessert of cheese or fruit, always ending with coffee. If the children are not allowed to drink this they are given a canard (duck), which is a lump of sugar dipped in coffee.

In the afternoon, when all is quiet, the *bonne* dresses neatly and settles down to do the mending for the entire family and to be ready to answer the doorbell. Soon it is time to bring the little ones home from school, after which she must prepare the evening meal.

Many families give the maid her *leisure* after dinner, but this is a re-

cent innovation. In certain families the maid is still required to remain in the evening to light chance guests down the stairs, for the house lights usually are extinguished at 10:30, and the invisible janitress pulls a cord near her bed to let the people in or out after that hour. This is tradition—and when a mistress allows her maid entire freedom after dark she is departing from an old custom.

The maid in France works hard and is allowed very limited leisure; she is supposed to have every other Sunday afternoon and that is all. For her services she receives the extraordinary sum of 45 or 50 francs (\$9 or \$10) a month, besides her home, of course.

Why She Couldn't Accept.

Telephone operators who plug wrong numbers or get the wires crossed sometimes are responsible for very embarrassing situations, as was exemplified by a broker in this city the other morning. The broker called up his home number and said to the person on the other end of the wire:

"Hello, dear. Is that you?"

"Yes," replied a sweet toned voice.

"Well, I've been thinking about you all morning. I want you to come downtown and meet me for lunch, and we'll go to a show this afternoon."

"Well, that would be very nice," replied the person on the other end, "and I should dearly love to do so, but my husband is home, and I'm afraid he'd object. Don't you think you've got the wrong number?"—Philadelphia Times.

As Good as Refused.

"And she refused you?"

"Practically. She said she would marry me as soon as I settled down and went to work at something worth while."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The most disgusting liar is the loafer who claims to be as good as an industrious man.

IMPATIENCE.

As next morning brought the ordeal that I dreaded; telling my uncle the whole story of the broken engagement.

I went into the dining room with a quickly beating heart, and soon told it all to the dear, kind uncle who had been both father and mother to me since my parents' death when I was but a wee brown-haired lass.

He did not scold, as I had supposed, and rather hoped that he would do, but kindly asked, "Do you really love the gentleman, Kitty?"

"Yes, uncle."

"And you are sure that he loves you?"

"Yes, I am sure," I answered, thinking of how he had said to me so often, "Kathleen Mavourneen."

"Very well," he answered, "but I am very sorry for John Weston. He's so good and true, but your happiness must be considered first."

That was just what John had said. Why did he not scold me? I could bear that so much better than this unmerited kindness.

So it was all settled, and I was at liberty to be supremely happy.

I wandered aimlessly around the house and grounds, thoroughly miserable, for I had made my uncle and John unhappy, and persons can never be happy, when bringing sorrow to those who love them best.

In the afternoon I put on my hat and strolled down the hawthorn-lined lane to a rustic seat where I had often encountered Mr. Thorne. I sat down on the bench, and tried to think solely of him for whom I had given up my best of old friends. But thoughts of John would intrude, and I was unable to keep them back. How very sympathetic I was! The gay dancing of the sunbeams o'er the waving green meadows, and the singing of the birds in the hawthorn branches overhead, brought to me such a sense of calm and quiet, that I fell asleep. I was awakened from my slumber by the sound of voices on the other side of the hedge, and, listening a moment, I recognized one of them as the voice of Mr. Thorne.

"How in the name of all that is wonderful did you happen to come to this little village, Fred?"

"I came to see you, Jack, old boy. Are you not flattered?"

"Well, yes, rather; but I never knew

any good do you know of him, but I'll speak no more of his merits. Kitty, do you know him, or are you simply in love with his handsome face and manners?"

"I asked you again, which shall I speak in an authoritative tone, or of being simply infatuated, which almost commanded me to do as he said. In England, where a trial by jury, the courts are—Chicago News.

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