

Fads and Fancies.
(Oregonian.)

The publication of the long impending "Fads and Fancies" momentarily compels reluctant attention to that American phenomenon which is called society. "Fads and Fancies" is a conglomeration of binding, paper, gilt and presswork, with the outward semblance of a book. Internally it has nothing of the nature of a book except possibly the introduction by Mrs. Burton Harrison, which surprises one here and there by fleeting suggestions of common sense, incongruous with their setting and probably unintentional. The English language contains no word sufficiently expressive of folly to characterize this thing, therefore it must be spoken of as a book, if it is spoken of at all.

In its makeup it is typical of the character in the shapes of men and woman whose quasi-human antics it purports to describe. Gorgeous with wasted gold and sumptuous vellum, ornamented with the prostituted labors of ingenious artisans and gifted artists, within it is a mere blank except for a record of idle tittle-tattle and the foolish histories of worthless lives; just as the men and women who seek an immortality of idiosyncrasy in its gilded pages adorn their bodies with half the substance of a commonwealth while their souls gibber in vacancy. Each of the 105 subscribers to the book paid a large sum of money to its publishers. Some paid to have their follies recorded. Others paid to have their virtues omitted. The widow of Collis P. Huntington gave \$10,000 to see her dead husband's picture and biography included in the literary carnival of vanity, which seems a pity, for, whatever his misdeeds, he was not a fool. Mr. Cleveland and President Roosevelt are also included but without their consent, one gathers; and even if they did permit it posterity will not blame them severely. Mankind admits that even great men must occasionally indulge in folly.

Why the number of subscribers was limited to 105 is a curious question. It may be that no other members of society were silly enough to waste their money in such a way, but that is hardly probable, considering how they habitually spend it. It may be that no others had committed scandals worth numbered with the immortals in art,

paying to smother, but that is also unlikely when we remember how they pass their time. What seems most reasonable to suppose is that 105 of these biographies are pretty nearly enough to fill out a volume of elegant shape and size, as gas distends a gaily decorated toy balloon. The publishers have doubtless divided society into sections of about that number, and, having preyed upon one, they will presently fasten upon another, and so on, bleeding a succession of these edifying volumes, unless a suit for blackmail timely entails the enterprise of the publishers of "Fads and Fancies."

Viewed as the records of worthless lives, the contents of this book are themselves worthless, but for all that they have a certain interest. American high society may be a scandalous phenomenon, but it cuts too much of a figure in our national life to be ignored. Its follies are interesting because they are the consummate reward of effort to which most of us aspire; or, if we do not aspire to them, we secretly envy them. The captain of industry plunders his workmen and cheats his competitors to give his wife the means to gamble at Mrs. Astor's parties, and show her diamonds at dinner with Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish. The lawyer sells his brains to swindling corporations to enable his family to ape in their inland city the meaningless expense of New York society. The cashier robs his bank, the trustee betrays his trust, the senator steals, the insurance president swindles, the artist paints and the author writes—all not merely for money but for enough of it to pay his way into society.

English society makes much of scientific men and lionizes authors and heroes. French society cultivates wit and fosters art. American society does nothing of the sort. It values art only as something to spend money on with pompous display. Of literature it knows nothing. It eats too much to be witty, and drinks too much to be decent. The only mental effort it makes is in gambling; the only tribute it pays to morality is to frequent the divorce court. No man gains standing in American society because he has done great deeds in statesmanship or war and none because he is others had committed scandals worth numbered with the immortals in art,



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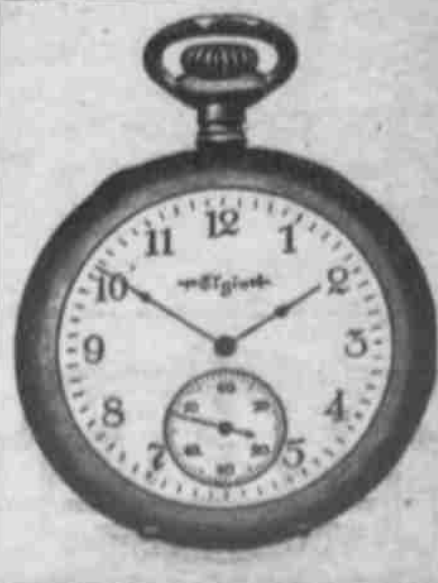
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science or literature. If his achievements make him rich enough, he is admitted. If they do not, he is excluded. Society demands of its neophytes money, and nothing else. It asks of a man neither character nor manhood; it asks of a woman neither beauty nor virtue. Virtue, in fact, would be a distinct impediment in our very best society. It would make a woman appear peculiar even if it did not excite scandal. An expert of long experience has summed up the real essentials to social success in three terms: They are a good stomach, a tough conscience and a long purse.

In Mad Chase.
Millions rush in mad chase after health, from one extreme of faddism to another, when, if they would only eat good food, and keep their bowels regular with Dr. King's New Life Pills, their troubles would all pass away. Prompt relief and quick cure for liver and stomach trouble, 36c, at J. C. Perry's drug store; guaranteed.

New Pictures in Century.
The January Century begins the year with no letting down of its standards of illustration. The colored frontispiece is "The Sewing Room." Also in color is the printing, with decorative designs by Beatrice Stephens, of the old English religious lyric, "Yet if His Majesty Our Sovereign Lord." There are four insets in tint, one drawing for Mrs. Ward's novel, another group of "America." Of the pages in black and white, of special interest is a portrait of Thackeray, published for the first time from a photograph of the crayon drawing from life.

Reduced Round Trip Rates.
To all points on Southern Pacific lines in Oregon. Account Christmas and New Years holidays. For the above occasion the Southern Pacific Company will sell tickets on December 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and January 1 to all points on Oregon lines at rate of one and one-third fare for the round trip. Return limit January 2, 1906. Stopovers will not be permitted. 12-191d

Notice of Sale of School Buildings.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will, up to 7:30 p. m. on Saturday, January 6, 1906, receive sealed bids for the purchase of the two old school buildings known as the Big Central School and Little Central School buildings now located on the north half of block 3 in the city of Salem, Oregon. Certified check of 25 per cent of the amount of the bid must accompany bid. Successful bidder must enter into a contract to remove buildings within 30 days of acceptance of bid. The right to reject any or all bids is reserved.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 19th day of December, 1905.
J. C. GOODALE, JR.,
Clerk of the school district No. 24, in Marion county, Oregon. 12-21-11t

Kansas.
Kansas is the only state that ever grew enough wheat in one season to furnish bread for more than a week for every man, woman and child on the face of the globe from the Orient to the Occident, and from Greenland's icy mountain to India's coral strand. She is the only state that, on a pinch, can raise the products of the frigid, temperate and torrid zones. She is the only state that within 24 hours can furnish climate suited to the taste of the ice man from Iceland, the Pole from Poland, the Hol from Holland, or the typical savage from Borneo in his untrammeling suit of sunshine.

Kansas is the only state that can mix in the commerce of every clime, and where the hot winds will affect the markets of Christendom. Within the last ten years the state has raised sufficient corn to fatten enough cattle to drink up the waters of Lake Superior, and enough hogs to furnish ham gravy to float the United States navy. She has enough natural gas to supply the furnaces of civilization, and enough salt to make pickling brine out of all the fresh waters of the globe.—Tom Mead.

A Natural Result.
It is very reasonable to suppose if the foundation of a structure was removed that the building itself is bound to come down. This simple principle can be applied to disease. Take medicine into the system that will remove the cause of the sickness, and illness will leave of itself. Dyspepsia, indigestion, sick headache and biliousness have their foundation in stomach disorders. Remove this weakness and the other symptoms are no more. There is one cure for this that all druggists sell for 25c per box; it is Dr. Gunn's Improved Liver Pills. They get right at the beginning of the disease and make the cure by taking away the cause.

Not the Right One.
During the National Civic federation's convention in New York Samuel Gompers, apropos of a mistake, said: "It might have been embarrassing—as embarrassing as the position of a young man of Toledo whom I heard about the other day."
"He had been calling now and then on a young Toledo lady, and one night, as he sat in the parlor waiting for her to come down, her mother entered the room instead, and asking him, in a very grave, stern way, what his intentions were."
"He turned very red and was about to stammer some incoherent reply, when suddenly the young lady called down from the head of the stairs:
"Mamma! mamma! that is not the one."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Discerning Kind.
A city gentleman was recently invited down to the country for "a day with the birds." Whatever his powers in snuff, his shooting was not remarkable for its accuracy, to the great disgust of the man in attendance, whose tip was generally regulated by the size of the bag.
"Dear me!" at last exclaimed the sportsman, "but the birds seem exceptionally strong on the wing this year."
"Not all of 'em sir," came the remark. "You've shot at the same bird about a dozen times. 'E's a follerin' you about, sir."
"Following me about? Nonsense! Why should a bird do that?"
"Well, sir," came the reply, "I dunno, I'm sure, unless 'e's 'agin' round you for safety."—Tattler.

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