

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Wage-Earning by Married Women.

THE American prejudice against wage-earning by married women appears in the effort occasionally made to make the employment of teachers in the public schools terminate with marriage. But thousands of American married women do earn wages, thousands more would gladly do so if they could, and other thousands would be happier and better off if they did. The prejudice against it seems disadvantageous. American men, as a rule, prefer to support their wives if they can. If an American married woman works for pay, it is either because it gives her pleasure or because her husband's income is insufficient. She does not do it as a matter of course. How long she can keep it up depends upon what the work is, and upon other circumstances. If she has children, that, of course, interferes with her wage-earning if it does not stop it altogether, and general acceptance of a custom which would restrict or discourage child-bearing is not to the public advantage. Marriage tends, and should tend, to withdraw women from wage-earning, but it need not stop it per se and abruptly. To make marriage a bar to future wage-earning by a woman operates in restriction of marriage, and that is at least as much against public policy as restriction of child-bearing. It will always depend on circumstances whether a young wage-earning woman who marries had better go on with her work, but Dr. Patten seems to be right in holding that it is often best that she should do so, and that it is often better that she should marry and still earn wages than not marry. Prejudice should not determine conduct in these matters. There should be a freer choice.—Harper's Weekly.

Waste Lands and Criminals.

MASSACHUSETTS is about to try a new experiment in the industrial management of its convicts. Instead of employing them in manufacturing goods to compete with the products of non-criminal labor, it is proposed to establish industrial camps and set the convicts to reclaiming waste and worthless land, of which the Bay State possesses enough to keep them at work for generations.

The plan is a tentative one, the first camp having just been established near Rutland, but on the face of it the scheme appears to possess two merits. It furnishes outdoor work for the convicts without subjecting them to the humiliation of constant public observation, as would be the case if they were employed on the streets and highways, and the work performed will be useful work. If they are able to make two blades of grass grow where one or none grew before there is authority for the claim that they will be transformed from malefactors into benefactors.

The experiment will be watched with a good deal of interest for various reasons. While no sane person would advocate the maintenance of criminals in idleness, no one has as yet found a way of employing them that is entirely satisfactory. The farming out of convicts which has been practiced in some of the Southern States has been shown to be subject to glaring abuses. These abuses could be minimized if not entirely avoided if the State did the farming under wise and honest management. Every State has an abundance of waste lands, which would be worth reclamation, and which, if reclaimed, would add to the public wealth.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Automobile Nuisances.

THE wife of a railway magnate in New York has been nearly killed by a stone thrown at her head while riding in an automobile. The Police Commissioner, discussing the event, says: "The automobile people must be protected. This matter of hatred that has been growing among the mob gangs of the lower and upper East Side has got to stop if I have any power." Of course there is no possible excuse for such an action as throwing a stone at a lady's head, but we wonder if it has occurred to Police Commissioner McArdoo that there are other people besides the automobile people, who need protection; that there must be a cause for the hatred between the automobile people and the gangs. At the present time some of the

streets of Montreal and the suburban roads are infested with automobiles, in the possession of a lot of howling Yahoos, who go out of their way to be offensive to people who do not happen to like the smell of gasoline. They deliberately try to frighten horses; to scare pedestrians, and to splash them with mud. It would be interesting to know how some of the cads come to be in even temporary possession of the machines. They certainly do not belong to the class that can afford to own or to hire such luxuries. It would be worth the while of all respectable people who are interested in automobiling to make a combined effort to suppress this nuisance. Anybody walking along a highway frequented by automobilists can readily understand why hatred has grown up between the East Side gangs and the New York automobilists.—Montreal Star.

The Insurance of a Man Hanged.

BY the ruling of a Pennsylvania court an insurance company has been freed from the necessity of paying the policy of a man hanged for crime. The man, of course, was beyond the possibility of having any concern in the matter. His heirs were not, and they are the ones who must suffer. In China, not a highly civilized country, the relatives of an assassin are forced to share the penalty with him, or indeed to bear all of it, in case of the criminal's escape.

The courts of Pennsylvania may understand law and have the ability to construe it. To such credit as they are entitled for acumen, purity and fearlessness they are heartily welcome. And doubtless on the lofty plane which they operate in the interests of justice they are above feeling a pang of discomfort at the intimation that the Chinese theory, refined and modified and made presentable by a setting of words, appears in this decision. It would be unfair to hang the innocent wife of a murderer, or send his children to prison. It is not more dazlingly fair to starve them or send them to the poor house.

Nobody desires the insurance company to be deprived of any legitimate protection. As a rule, it does not suffer much. Generally the rare swindler is caught and a heavy penalty exacted.

Policies carried for a certain time become "incontestable." That is to say, the company will not contest them unless through some circumstance, probably a technicality, it sees a reasonable chance of beating the claim of the heirs. If it has agreed to pay a certain sum upon the death of a certain man, and the man, having fulfilled his share of the contract, is dead, nothing remains but the payment of the sum or a dishonorable attempt at evasion.

In the instance under consideration the man had committed murder. This was the business of the company only as it was the concern of all law-abiding citizens. It is a folly to assume that he committed the murder with the purpose of getting himself hanged, and thus securing for his heirs a sum of money. The law prescribes the punishment for murder. It stipulates, in Pennsylvania, that the guilty shall be hanged. It does not add "and his heirs deprived of the insurance upon which he may have paid premiums."—New York American.

Educated Business Men.

STUDENTS of the history of education are familiar with the time when the object of the collegiate foundation was almost solely to train young men for the priesthood or the ministry. Then the desirability of general scholastic culture as a preparation for entry into the law was recognized, and lastly, as a preparation for entry into medicine. The ministry, the law and medicine—these almost up to our time have been the three learned professions. Except for the comparatively small number attracted by the notion that an academic education was fitting to gentility, the vast majority of academic pupils were destined, in the order named, for the surplice, the robe and the chaise. From the three typical American universities the greater number of graduates now look forward to business careers or to technical pursuits which are closely related to business. The business man of the future is plainly to be a man of scholastic education. This tendency is likely to have an effect on business as it already has an effect on our universities.—New York Globe.

A Carnation Farm.

A 200-acre ranch in Santa Monica, Cal., is devoted to carnations as an outdoor crop. The grower is a retired banker who follows flower culture as a recreation. He started with two acres, which have been increased to 20 acres, and it is expected that finally the whole of the ranch will be devoted to the culture of this flower. The carnation fields are yielding on an average from 6,000 to 10,000 flowers every day, and the demand is stated to be greater than the supply. A carnation field remains in bearing from two to three years, and is then renewed with plants obtained from cuttings. The plants are set in rows three feet apart, and the plants two feet apart in the rows, thus permitting cultivation with machinery.

Traffic on the Suez Canal.

In spite of the reduction of transportation charges of 10 cents a ton, the receipts from the traffic of the Suez canal for the year 1903 are only a little less than those of the previous year, so a further considerable increase of traffic can be stated. The receipts were \$20,700,000, or \$20,000 less than in 1902.

A Good Rule.

Look for goodness, look for gladness,
You will meet them all the while,
If you bring a smiling visage
To the glass, you meet a smile.
—Alice Cary.

OLD FAVORITES

A Forest Hymn.

The groves were God's first temples. Ere man learned
To hew the shaft and lay the architrave,
And spread the roof above them; ere he framed
The lofty vault, to gather and roll back
The sound of anthems, in the darkling wood,
Amid the cool and silence, he knelt down
And offered to the Mightiest solemn thanks
And supplication. For his simple heart
Might not resist the sacred influences
Which, from the stilly twilight of the place,
And from the gray old trunks that high
In heaven
Mingled their mossy boughs, and from
The sound
Of the invisible breath that swayed at
once
All their green tops, stole over him, and
bowed
His spirit with the thought of boundless
power
And inaccessible majesty. Ah, why
Should we in the world's riper years
neglect
God's ancient sanctuaries, and adore
Only among the crowd, and under roofs
That our frail hands have raised? Let
me, at least,
Here in the shadow of this aged wood,
Offer one hymn—thrice happy if it find
Acceptance in His ear.
Father, Thy hand
Hath reared these venerable columns,
Thou
Didst weave this verdant roof. Thou
didst look down
Upon the naked earth, and forthwith
rose
All these fair ranks of trees. They in
Thy sun
Budded, and shook their green leaves in
Thy breeze,
And shot toward heaven. The century-
living crow,
Whose birth was in their tops, grew old
and died
Among their branches, till, at last, they
stood,
As now they stand mossy, and tall, and
dark,
Fit shrine for humble worshiper to hold
Communion with his Maker. These dim
vaults,
These winding aisles, of human pomp or
pride,
Report not. No fantastic carvings show
The boast of our vain race to change the
form
Of Thy fair works. But Thou art here;
Thou fill'st
The solitude; Thou art in the soft winds
That run along the summit of these trees
In music; Thou art in the cooler breath
That, from the inmost darkness of the
place,
Comes, scarcely felt; the barky trunks,
the ground,
The fresh moist ground, are all instinct
with Thee.
—William Cullen Bryant.

MADE PURSUIT OF WEALTH.

Those Who Have Won a Competence Should Retire from Business.

In the United States leaders in every line of activity, in politics and business, have been conspicuously prone to die, as it is said, in harness. The death of Mark Hanna is a case in point. But the list of those distinguished for their successful attainment of wealth and fame, who have continued their activities long after the advance of age and the diminution of physical strength must have warned them of the approaching end, is a very long one. In the older countries of Europe, on whose civilization that of the United States is founded, it seems easier for men who have more or less successfully obtained the object they aimed at to retire and enjoy freely the prizes they have gained, although even there the old barbaric struggle is in many cases kept up to the end. Public opinion there, too, is more tolerant of those who lay off the harness before being compelled to do so by the decree of fate. In this country, however, there seems to exist in the mind of the ordinary man a certain contempt for those who give up the strenuous paths of labor and ambition before their strength has wasted away. The successful men of the United States who have sprung from the masses are imbued with this opinion. Until within the last twenty-five years the idea of retiring from active life and settling down to a life in which personal tastes and proclivities could be followed was regarded as at least eccentric.

There have always been two necessary steps to be taken before retirement from active life could with safety be accomplished; one was the acquirement of wealth and the other provisions for its safekeeping. As civilization progresses the second and more important step can be more easily managed. The individual no longer has to depend upon his own efforts to guard the store set aside for his future support. The power of corporations, originally directed simply to the accumulation of wealth, is now to a very great extent applied to its conservation.

In Great Britain there has always been a wealthy leisure class, and naturally there has been a systematiza-

tion of the manners and customs consequent on such an association of wealth and leisure. Public opinion is more tolerant of a man who wishes to do what he likes with his own than it has yet become in the United States. The existence of a leisure class, able and willing to enjoy their lives rationally and intelligently, is a check on the wider exhibitions of leisure on the part of suddenly acquired wealth. It also holds out something beyond mere money-getting as the goal of a successful life. It encourages retirement after reasonable fortune has been gained and discourages to some extent the piling up of exaggerated redundancy. The effect of a more philosophical view of life on the part of our own business men will tend to a more even distribution of wealth and a leveling of the inequalities now so frequently pointed out.—Banker's Magazine.

JARGON OF ENGLISH TRAMPS.

It Dates from the Reformation and Is a Picturesque Language.

The English government is going to consider the vagrant. Vagrancy has engaged the attention of the authorities ever since it started in the wholesale line with the reformation. In good Queen Bess' days a vagrant was whipped for being one the first time, he had a portion of his right ear cut off if he repeated the performance, and if he was convicted a third time he was sent on a long journey from which there is no possibility of return. Milder statutes came with the Georges. Our present vagrant act was passed in 1824 and amended in 1898. The vagrant has not been amended at all.

Tramping runs in families. I have traced the history of a tramp family back over 100 years, and found that five generations of them have been born in the workhouse and all had been lifelong vagabonds.

They are a conservative people, and it is interesting to note that many of the words which were tramps' language when Harmon compiled his dictionary in 1590 are in the tramps' and thieves' vernacular at this very second that ticks from the clock. The "boosing ken" of the sixteenth century is the "boosing ken" of the twentieth. The "beak," a constable, has become the "beak," a magistrate. "Dudes," clothes, have become "duds;" "cassam" is still cheese, "antem" is still a church, and "mort," slightly altered, is woman, and an "antem mort," or church woman, a wife.

"Saltee" (sold) are still pence, and the thief and the vagrant still reckon in Italian. "Tray saltee" is three-pence, "chinker saltee" is five pence, eight pence is "otter saltee," nine pence is "nobby saltee" and ten pence is "dacha saltee"—Italian, tre, cinque, otto, nove, dieci—six pence is sometimes a "tester," which was its official name in the days of Henry VIII., and a shilling is a "beong," Italian, bianco—white, "Rome," which meant good or chief, is to-day "rum." In the language of the road in Elizabeth's time the queen was the "Rome mori," and London was "Rome ville." In buskers' slang, the manager of a theater or a show is to-day "the rum-cull."

The tramps are an ancient fraternity. If they are forced off the road into labor colonies, I wonder if their venerable jargon will gradually pass away? I don't think so, because it is a secret language, and at no time will a tramp find a secret language more useful than when he and his fellows are in difficulties. I can imagine no difficulty greater to the true-born tramp than hard work.—London Reference.

For a Change.

There was good talk at a tea party given once at the observatory of Cambridge, England. Sydney Smith was there, and although he took the wonderful work of the place seriously, he had a light manner of expressing himself. The party had been led up to look at Jupiter, and this was his comment:

"Jupiter? If you hadn't told me, I should have taken it for a bad shilling."

"Where is Sir John Herschel?" asked one of the guests.

"He is at the Cape of Good Hope," said the astronomer, Airy. "He was ordered there to observe the stars of the southern hemisphere."

"Ah," said Sydney Smith, "I suppose you astronomers, when you are ill, are advised to change your stars just as we ordinary mortals are told to change our air."

Earthworms vs. Gophers.

Darwin concluded that the earthworm in five years brings up soil enough to cover the ground one inch thick, and that, therefore, the result of its labor is of vast importance. I reckon that the pocket gopher does this in five months. It does not do it in the same way or so effectively, because the earthworm actually digests the substance of its castings; but it is evident that the pocket gopher's method answers the purpose of fully disintegrating and mixing the dead vegetation with the soil to produce a rich and fertile black loam.—Century.

LACKED JUST WHAT HE WANTED.

The agent for the "Inexhaustible Cyclopedic, in Twelve Parts," approached Mr. Ransom with a light and springy step, and was greatly cheered when he received an invitation to "draw up an' show your wares," and the other rocking-chair on the shady porch was pushed towards him.

"You say there's everything anybody wants to know in it," said Mr. Ransom, genially, when the agent's flow of conversation had ceased for a moment and he looked hopefully at his host. "Well, I guess I shall have to buy it. Lawsee, yes, I can see how easy the payments'll be. But now I just want to make sure o' one or two things before I pay ye down the fust money.

"Le's see, what parts have ye got with ye? 'Vol. One, A to Com,' that's al right. Now you find me the place where it tells about ant-hills, and the best way to rid your dooryard of 'em. I've tried more'n forty different ways a'ready."

Mr. Ransom leaned comfortably back in his chair and rocked with a loud creak while the agent searched the pages of "Vol. One," with an anxious face.

"It doesn't tell about them," he stammered at last, "You see—" But Mr. Ransom raised his hand in protest,

"It's too bad," he said, "but probably that slipped their minds. Jest turn over to the b's, and find 'butter.' Now see how you can make it come when it's contrary, same as it is sometimes when you're in a hurry to get through churning."

Again he regarded the agent's reddening face with a calm and genial gaze.

"Not there?" he said, when the result of the search was reluctantly admitted. "That seems curious, don't it? But still I'll give 'em another chance. Now you turn over the c's till you come to 'cats.' There, you've got it. Now how do they undertake to keep a Maltie cat from shedding all over visitors' clothes and the furniture, so the whole family won't be picking an' eating gray hairs the enduring time?"

The agent shut the book with a slam and rose abruptly, in spite of Mr. Ransom's benevolent smile.

"You stan' there a minute till mother fetches ye a glass o' lemonade; it's a warmish day," said Mr. Ransom, cordially. "But as to the book you're peddling, why, mother's got a 'Helps to the Handy' that her mother had before her that you'd ought to take a look at some time. What with that an' the World's Atlas an' the dictionary, I guess mother an' I'll make out to get along without any cyclopedy, young man."

You will be wise if you keep out of some scraps.