

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Disrespectfulness and Indication of Shiftlessness in Absence of Reasonable Care in Spelling and Penmanship. : : :

By DR. CHARLES H. PARKHURST.

A letter was received yesterday from a man who wanted a line of introduction to some business house, with a view to securing a position. The name signed was so blindly and blunderingly written that in order to reply to my correspondent I had to cut off the signature and paste it on the return envelope. A writing school is the place for such a man, and not a business house.

It was a small thing, but small things often afford the best evidence. It is proverbial that straws make the best weathervanes. A person's penmanship need not be like copperplate, but it is disrespectful to one's correspondent, and a distinct symptom of a certain kind of shiftlessness, not to shape one's words in a way to make them at least fairly legible.

Bad spelling is another symptom, pointing in the same direction. Our language is more difficult than some in that respect—more so than the German, for example—but it is no more pardonable for an American to write with a brogue than it is to speak with a brogue. Besides that, dictionaries are cheap, and if one needs an orthographic crutch he can get one for a few cents and conceal his deficiency, even if he is not a scholar enough to correct it.

Same spelling and ambiguous chirography are a mild form of illiteracy, and are scarcely excusable in these days of large opportunity. Liberal allowance should be made for such immigrants as have come from regions where opportunities are more meagre. But even so, another native or alien, one has not attained the ideal standard of Americanism till he can read English intelligently and write it with respectable accuracy.

This matter of illiteracy and the extent to which it prevails in our country is a serious one. Mr. Winthrop Talbot, who has been employed by our government to study into the matter, reports that we have 5,000,000 illiterates and many million more that are practically such. Giving a young fellow just sufficient instruction in our language to enable him to get a job is not teaching him English. In fact, it is the most direct way of encouraging him to be superficial.

Illiteracy and popular government are incompatible. Our individual life readily to be bound up in the life of our country, which it cannot be unless we think and read in our country's vernacular. To be American consists in large part in being home along in the current of national ideas, national affections and aspirations, and those must be interpreted to us through the medium of the nation's language.

Such as have not attained to this are segregated into communities apart, and have not been directed by the national life, and not become assimilated into elements constituent of the body politic. They are in America, but not of it. They subsist on the nation's life, but without becoming contributory to that life. They are members of the order of civic parasites, feeding on the body that they ought themselves to help feed. Closely connected with that is another matter that can properly be brought within the compass of this article and which has to do with college students' ignorance of past and current events, especially the latter.

It is suggested by what has recently been developed by a certain college professor upon examining members of his class concerning the location of places that have been made important and conspicuous by events in the European war. One such place, which has been for months the scene of sharp struggles between the warring powers, and which has had emphatic attention called to it in almost every issue of the daily papers since September, not a single member of his class could geographically locate it.

It is safe to conclude that that entire class of collegians knows very little about what has been going on in Europe during the last six years of our century. Its members have probably been studying Roman and Greek history of the ante-Christian age, and familiarizing themselves with the languages and literature of that period, but as indifferent, as though residents of another planet, to events of a magnitude and seriousness that eclipse anything they can discover in classic records.

Without speaking disparagingly of the value of a knowledge of the events that are past, no matter how long past, yet there is an educating significance in studying history that is in the making that there is not in studying history that is made and finished and that, in one sense of the word, is dead and gone.

These students, and all students, are today in the midst of a tremendously live world. Its historic processes are laid bare before their very eyes. They can hear the clanking of the machinery of events, and it is difficult to conceive how a mind that is really a student mind can face the great tragedy, more immense than the combined tragedies of all the dramatists, and not succumb to its educational and inspirational pressure.

And these students are expected soon to quit the retirement of college life and enter into the great world and become part of it. But who can such reckless as the one described know about the great world? The study of the classics has been the means perhaps of accumulating for them a certain amount of gray matter and they will need it; but how about the adaptation of that gray matter to the actual conditions and requirements of the stage upon which they are expected to play a role?

This war is calculated to develop a crop of great men, made such by the magnitude and intense vitality of the times in which their mental and moral possibilities are getting their impulse and training, and those university boys, if they want to be reckoned among the magnates, had better spend a part of their time standing out on the highway while the procession is going by.

Quaint Little People in Quaint Little Frocks

Republished by Special Arrangement with Harper's Bazar.



Fashion says capes are popular. If for the old, why not for the young, especially when they can be edged with little linen tabs of white, enough trimming for a blue cotton dress?

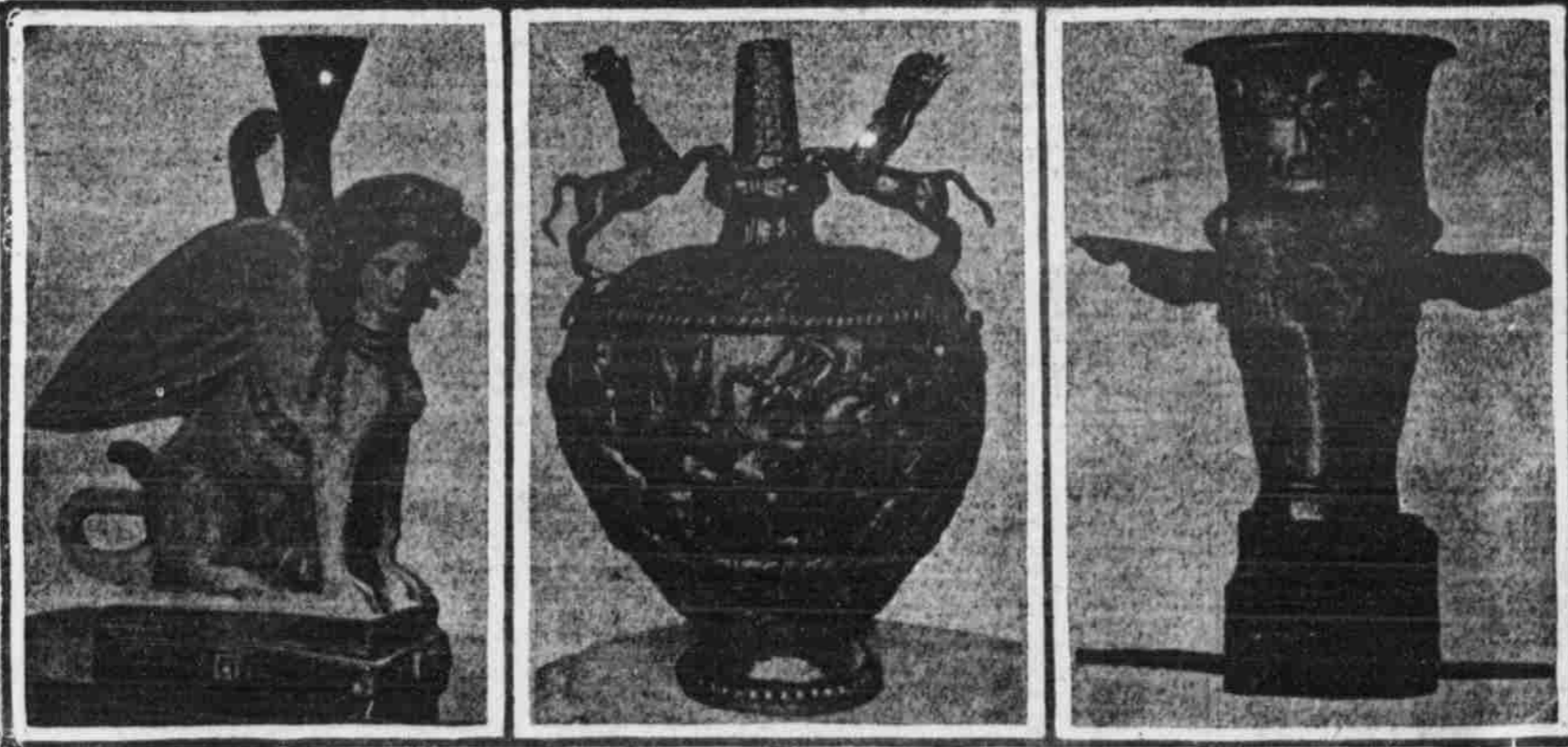
In deep blue velvet, with collar and cuffs and a band at the bottom of beaver fur a little maid can keep warm in spite of wintry winds.

Is it a boy or a girl who wears this double-breasted frock with double collar and cuffs of heavy linen embroidered in dots to match the material?

Plaits in the front and plaits in the back and each one held with feather stitching, to trim a frock of handkerchief linen that has a linen collar to complete its prettiness.

Rare and Priceless Jewels of Russia

Wonderful Specimens of Greek Art Found in the Crimea



Terra-cotta vase, Sphinx, 500 B. C. A silver vase, found in South Russia. A rhyton, found in Crimea.

By GARRET P. SERVISS.

In the peninsula called the Crimea Russia possesses one of the richest sources of ancient Greek jewelry and other masterpieces in all the world. The great palace of the Hermitage in Petrograd is remarkable for the number and splendor of these art gems, some of which are figured on this page. Three large volumes, prepared by order of the imperial government, are devoted to the contents of the magnificent hall containing these treasures. It is regarded as a most remarkable fact that no other region included in the ancient world in which Greek civilization reigned has yielded so vast a collection of specimens dating from the zenith of Greek art as has this remote spot on the northern shore of the Black Sea.

And yet it was so far from the center of human affairs at that time, that to visit it was an incomparably greater and more venturesome voyage than for us to travel round the globe.

The Crimea was known to the Greeks as the Tauric Chersonesus, and also as the country of the legendary Chimærians. Greek settlements were finally formed there several hundred years before Christ, and the city of Pantapeum, or Bosphorus, now Kerch, seems to have attained considerable importance.

The money value of the collection is very great, for many of the things are composed of solid gold and silver. But their artistic value is still greater, while their beauty of workmanship is unrivalled by anything done today. Maxime Collignon, a French authority on Greek archaeology, says that it must be admitted that on certain points the secrets of these ancient goldsmiths have not been discovered or disclosed, and that it is still a matter for inquiry how the artists managed to give to their work such inimitable beauty and finish.

He also says that "granulation," a kind of decoration which consists in covering the surface of gold leaf with almost in-

visible bosses of gold, is one of the secrets that modern art despairs of discovering.

One of the most famous pieces in the great collection is the "rhyton," or drinking horn, shown in one of the photographs. This is in the form of a bull's head, exquisitely carved, with a representation around the cup of the assassination of Priam's son, Polydorus, by Polymnestor, the king of Thrace, while Hecuba, queen of Troy and mother of the murdered youth, attacks the assassin.

The great silver vase seen in another of the illustrations is a fine example of the tireless attention to details which the artists gave to their work. The originality of the figures of the centaurs forming the handles, and the animation from the ruins of what has been called

the center of the vase, make this an object of special admiration.

Great numbers of coins and rings are included in the collection, some dating back not less than 2,500 or 3,000 years. One small cylinder of cornaline attached to a golden chain and carved with figures representing the guardian spirit of a king battling with two lions, is supposed to have been the private seal of Mithridates the Great, who died at Pantapeum in the year 63 B. C.

Mithridates, who was a great patron of art as well as a great soldier, was regarded in Rome as the most dangerous enemy that the conquering mistress of the world ever encountered. Many of the finest treasures in the collection come from the ruins of what has been called

the tomb of Mithridates.

The women of those days, in that distant part of the world, decorated their persons, as these discoveries show, with jewels of such artistic beauty and originality that no money today could purchase their equals. There are, for instance, many earrings of gold exquisitely shaped in imitation of heads of cupids, of goddesses, of lions, of lynxes and other animals, and of inimitable workmanship.

Collars, bracelets, table ornaments, cups, jeweled mirrors, fantastic buttons or other objects for vestments, of gold and silver, or precious stones, abound. Some of the objects, according to medals accompanying them, date from the time of Alexander the Great, and there are gold coins struck in his reign.

Why Not Practice Kindness?

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

I wonder why most of us are so afraid of being kind? We seem to conduct life on the principle that to be kind is to be misjudged. We act for the most part as if kindness and weakness were synonymous. The world would be for the most of us an infinitely happier place if we frankly lived up to our kindly impulses.

"The new family at the end of the block seems very pleasant," says Mrs. Smith.

"I'd really like to call, but I'm afraid they'd think I was intruding." And Mrs. Smith does not call. She conquers her impulse to be friendly and neighborly lest she be misjudged—and she is misjudged! Says Mrs. Brown, head of the new family, "Oh, I wish we had never come into this neighborhood. It's so snobbish and exclusive that I'm really very unhappy here."

Multiply the instance a hundred fold. Daily each of us, because of some foolish self-consciousness and selfish personal fear that our actions will be misinterpreted, neglect to do the little kindness it lies in our power to offer to some one else. It is very cowardly to fail in a manifest duty merely because there is a chance that motives may be questioned.

Be honest with yourself where there arises such a situation. Ask yourself quite frankly, "What would I want done for me if I were in his or her position?" And then with a fine frankness and a simple honesty offer the best service you have in your power to give to friendship.

Hints About Pets

To keep canaries in song a frequent change of diet is necessary. Flageolets are sometimes used in order to teach bullfinches to whistle. During the winter the cage of a canary should never be hung in a room without a fire. A little brimstone put occasionally in the milk given to cats is a preventive of disease.

FLORENCE

is to be given next and believe me she is a very pretty doll. She has such sweet winning ways that we would like to have her go to some little girl that didn't get a doll for Xmas. She would make that little girl so happy.

Put on your thinking caps little Busy Bees, and see if you cannot remember some such little girl, and try to make her happy by collecting a few pictures to help her win Florence.

Florence will be given free to the little girl under 12 years of age that brings or mails us the largest number of dolls' pictures cut out of the Daily and Sunday Bee before 4 p. m., Friday, December 31.

Remember, you must send your pictures in ONE DAY EARLIER this week, because Saturday is New Year's Day, so the CONTEST WILL CLOSE AT 4 P. M. FRIDAY, instead of Saturday.

Florence pictures will be in The Bee every day this week. Cut them out and ask your friends to save the pictures in their paper for you too. See how many pictures of Florence you can get, and be sure to turn them in to The Bee office before 4 p. m. Friday, December 31.

You Can See Florence at The Bee Office



Little Stories of Big Men

By H. H. STANSBURY.

Representative W. A. Cullom of Indiana was standing with a group of politicians at the headquarters of the national democratic committee in Washington a few nights ago when an enthusiastic young reporter approached and asked:

"Congressman, what do you think about the president's preparedness program? How many battleships do you think we should build each year?"

"Well, young man," replied the gentleman from Indiana, "I am not greatly interested in preparedness and battleships. We haven't any deep water in Indiana. Why, a school of fish in the Wabash river could raise a dust."

Senator Chilton of West Virginia likes a joke and likes better to tell one. This is his latest:

An Irishman and an American entered

a place where liquid refreshments were sold and announced that they would like to have a drink.

"What sort of a drink will it be?" asked the polite attendant.

"Oh, give me a horse's neck," said the American.

"Faith, and then you can give me a horse's tail, and you won't have to kill two horses," said the Irishman.

The joy-laden auto is no respecter of persons.

Some fellows appear to smoke just for the pleasure of wasting matches.

No actress can expect to be recognized unless she keeps a dog of some kind.

Representative Ben Johnson of Kentucky, while shaking hands with Chairman Hay of the house military affairs committee on the opening day of congress, asked:

"Do you believe, Mr. Hay, this will be a long session?"

"I am afraid we are in the same plight as the darkey who recently had the misfortune to appear before Judge Crutchfield, in the police court of Richmond," replied Mr. Hay. "The defendant was charged with having participated in a cutting affray the night before, and was asked whether he desired to plead guilty or not guilty. This was his answer: 'No, sah, Mr. Judge; I wouldn't be have in dat way. I knows bettah. You see, I b'long in New York. I don't mix wid dese Virginia darkeys.'

"You'll mix with Virginia darkeys for the next six months," said the judge.

"Next case."

In-Shoots