

Reade is a man of strong convictions, and as I said of mediaeval opinions about his relations to the people to whom he preaches and administers the sacraments of the church.

During the burial services, last week held over the body of a woman who had neglected confession Father Reade is charged with having frightened her relatives by saying that on account of her neglect of confession he could not assure them that she had reached Paradise.

The speech if he made it, is an interesting example of a survival of an epoch forever past and impossible of recall.

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Dangerous Initiations.

It is not of very great use but the editors of the country are moralizing upon young Berkley's death who was drowned while attempting to obey the orders of a fellow named Dickinson who was putting him through the first horse play of an initiation into Kappa Alpha fraternity. Berkley had been told that his admission into the fraternity depended on the fidelity with which he obeyed Dickinson's orders, and when the latter handed him a note and told him to pin it on to a bridge in the distance, Berkley took it and when he found that a canal interrupted his progress towards the bridge, he plunged in and was drowned. The vicious part of the fraternity initiations is that the novice is instructed to obey without questioning and that no real harm will be done him. Ordinarily Berkley, not knowing how to swim, would scarcely have walked into water he did not know the depth of, but having been ordered to pin the note on the railroad bridge and there being no bridge over the canal he doubtless believed that if the water were over his head the initiator would not have dispatched him to a point beyond the canal. He had faith greater than Saint Peter's but it was misplaced and he was drowned. This is the second violent death occurring in the severe preliminaries of an initiation into the Kappa Alpha fraternity in the Cornell chapter. A few years ago a Kappa Alpha initiate was pushed off a precipice in Ithaca. He struck his head against a rock and he died within a few minutes. The correspondent of the Sun says the Kappa Alpha men expect to see the fraternity expelled by the authorities of Cornell university.

The father of young Berkley, not having been taught the strength and sacredness of the bonds uniting fraternity members, and knowing nothing at all about the fidelity paid them, has gone to Cornell shaking his gray bereaved head and exclaiming that his son was murdered and that so long as God gives him breath he will not cease his efforts to bring his murderer to justice. But he is only an unlettered, hardworking business man, who cannot be expected to understand the brilliant wit and ingenious devices for enjoying life that distinguish the Kappa Alpha's of Cornell.

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"Woman."

The man who is most a man is not afraid of the competition of women. The man who is most a man and able to do a man's part in the world is not afraid that woman will lose her interest in him or her children because she is allowed to earn her living and vote. This is what Theodore Roosevelt said recently in his address to the New York state assembly of mothers:

"I believe the mother must be more than a cross between the head nurse and the housekeeper. She must have an interest in outside things to keep

her own self-respect; and when she loses that self-respect, she loses the respect of her children. We know of a mother, good and kind, sacrificing herself to her children, who, through that sacrifice, has sacrificed her power of doing good. I wonder if you have read Mary E. Wilkin's 'Revolt of Mother.' You should read it, for it contains profound moral lessons." [This is the story of a long-suffering wife, tyrannized over by a husband who was thoughtless rather than bad, and describes her final rebellion and its good results.]

Another favorite objection to equal suffrage is the "division of labor"—the idea that the mother ought to attend to everything within the home and the father to everything outside it. Governor Roosevelt said:

"I do not think it is right for the father to let the mother have all the care of home life. No family can become all that it should be if the father does not do his share, or if the mother does not keep in touch with outside interests and what is going on in the world sufficiently to become an intellectual stimulus to her children.

"Many persons have a feeling that education and intelligent interest in public affairs tend to make a woman unwomanly. Governor Roosevelt said:

"There are women who develop the intellectual side to the dwarfing of the womanly, but it is not necessary. Educate the girl to be just as much of a womanly heroine as the heroines of any of the romances of the last century, yet have her wise, with well-trained mind, thoroughly awake to all that is going on in the world."

"The real objection to suffrage, in the minds of many fashionable and fastidious women, is the fear that the ballot might bring them in contact with something rough and unpleasant. Governor Roosevelt said:

"I think all these people who are bringing up the boys and girls who will naturally be the leaders of the next century should keep peculiarly in mind to train those children to have not only the negative motives, but to cultivate the positive. As one who sees infinitely much of the wickedness in the world, I have grown to count the want of intelligent and strong effort for righteousness to represent a positive misdemeanor. We can't afford it. We need all the effort toward righteousness possible. Your children are the people who will shape the questions of the next century, in which there will be a coming together of the nations and a gathering of problems greater than ever before. In the next century we shall need every ounce of morality, of firm courage, of steady purpose. We need not only the nice people, the people who would sit at home, who would confine their efforts to passing resolutions, but we shall need the people who feel a burning sense of indignation at corruption, at wrongs, at injustices, at fouling—people who will go out and work to set the world aright."

It is peculiarly appropriate that these words should have been spoken in Albany, the headquarters of the ants, who 'would sit at home,' and whose ruler at the idea of crystallizing their disapproval of any evil into the concrete form of a ballot cast against it."

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Animal Biographies.

Ernest Seton Thompson is a worthy rival of Kipling in animal stories. The Biography of a Grizzly, begun in the November Century is a fascinating story of an orphaned grizzly cub. When his mother dies all the world snarls at him and bites him. His fight for existence in the midst of bear traps and forest enemies is told with a real biographer's sympathy and appreciation of the standpoint and the difficulties of a grizzly. No one doubts any longer that animals think and reason. For a long time children and naturalists were baffled and snubbed by the word instinct which is supposed to be the name of the inherited gift which furnishes the plan of a nest to a bird, the directions for the cunning traps the spider sets and the outline to the ants of their complex social system. The word is defective because it does not explain the cleverness shown by cats, dogs, horses, and other familiar quadrupeds in evading sudden dangers and discomforts in which knowing how to build a nest,

set a trap, or organize a community will not help them. Doubtless in Mr Kipling's and Mr. Thompson's interpretation of animal life from the standpoint of the animal rather than from the alien human standpoint their subjects are idealized. But every successful biographer creates an atmosphere for the man whose diary and private letters he has read. Following in the footsteps of a bear, living in the forest and marking the habits and tastes of individuals of the bear family, Mr. Thompson's biography has none of the characteristics of a general history and all the charm of a life Napoleon or Poe.

Horse dealers have long known that there were not two horses that thought alike or could be handled alike; but a horse dealer's opinions have not been able to produce the revolution in our opinions of the dumb world that these two writers have accomplished. They were of course preceded by Burrows and other painstaking naturalists willing to lie all day and night in a blind in order to identify birds and verify conclusions in regard to their employment of certain notes to express fear, love, or the discovery of food. The beginnings in literature of this rational view of animal life and experience has taken place in the last quarter of a century. It is to literature the discovery of a new world. Only the patient man without prejudice can find out the secret of the biographies we are so anxious to read. "Some Animals I have Known" by Mr. Thompson was written by a friend of his life-long friends who are more jealous of their loves and hates, who guard family secrets and skeletons with a fidelity unknown to men and women. In revealing the difficulties of animal life Mr. Thompson and Mr. Kipling have enlarged our sympathies and widened our horizon as much or more than Columbus did at the end of the fifteenth century.

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Congratulations.

The undisguised and sincere satisfaction with which the news of Admiral Dewey's engagement is received is a proof the real affection with which he is regarded by Americans. The sense of ownership that the nation feels is like nothing so much as the interest that subjects feel in the family of the reigning monarch. If the English ever become sentimental it is when the heir apparent is engaged and during the celebration of the wedding festivities. The poetry written on these occasions is truly dreadful, but it is also touching as the effort of life long stoics to express an emotion which is actually choking them. When Prince George was betrothed and finally married to the Princess May the poet laureate and other untitled English poets were moved to express the emotion which was really disturbing them and their fellow countrymen. It may have answered its purpose and satisfied loyal hearts but it certainly added nothing to the poetical treasure of the world.

In spite of the satisfaction with which the Admiral's communication is received I confess adread of the news paper gossip and gloat that will record Mrs. Hazen's movements and efforts to collect a trousseau sub rosa. There is no far land to which she and her fiancé may flee where their daily movements will not be photographed. And when the wedding actually takes place, no yellow newspaper will be yellow enough to portray the trifling details. It is shocking that we have progressed so far in the road of vulgarity opened and paved for us by the yellow newspapers that the news of the engagement of an idolized

American at first suggests only weariness, in anticipation of newspaper enterprise in securing the bride's picture and that of all her family. There is not the shadow of a doubt that tomorrow's New York papers will contain pictures of Admiral Dewey and Mrs. Hazen enclosed in an immense heart and on the same page a vignette of poor General Hazen. The Admiral knows he is loved by the nation and I think he is fully determined to excuse the very worst impertinence we can commit.

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The Vanderbilt Millions.

It is frequently stated for the benefit of socialists who are clamoring for a redistribution that the sons, and if not the sons, the grandsons of millionaires waste the money made and hoarded by the founder of the family's fortunes. But neither the Astor nor the Vanderbilt fortune has been dissipated in four generations. The original sum held by the heirs of three generations is increasing, though as each head of the family passes away the legacies to minor heirs make a large draft upon the still increasing nucleus.

The original Vanderbilt called Commodore left the bulk of his fortune of \$50,000,000 to his eldest son William H. Vanderbilt, leaving his other children comparatively modest sums. The will was contested chiefly by two of his daughters and a settlement was effected whereby a much larger sum was settled upon all the younger sons and daughters.

William H. Vanderbilt multiplied more than three times the sum his father left, and he left the most of his savings to Cornelius H. who has just died. He was devoted to business and a man of large but unostentatious charities. His will left legacies to all the old servants and clerks. Instead of leaving the bulk of his fortune to his eldest son Cornelius who had displeased him in the selection of a wife Cornelius H. left it to his youngest son Albert. He gave to his son Reginald and to his daughters Gertrude and Gladys \$7,500,000 each; to Cornelius the wayward and oldest son, he gave \$1,500,000, and to Alfred the second son, the residue of the estate, amounting to some \$50,000,000. When the father died, Alfred, who is now the chief legatee under the will and designated by the father as the head of the family, was in Japan. The will was not admitted to probate until his return a few days ago. Before the will was offered for probate another Vanderbilt will contest was avoided by Alfred voluntarily giving to his brother Cornelius the sum of \$6,000,000 to make him equal with the other less favored members of the family.

Thus the feudal system of keeping a large fortune intact has taken root in this country. Though the fortune descends, not to the oldest son invariably and unalterably, but to the one whom the patriarch of the family and the hereditary conservator of its fortune selects as the heir most likely to keep the fortune together and to increase it so that the next subdivision to his sons and daughters may not decrease the transmitted treasure. By this system the fortune is less likely to fall into careless and unworthy hands. Where the astute father can select his own heir, the chances of keeping the legacy intact are largely increased. Whereas in England the estate is entailed and must go to the eldest son if he have intellect enough to sign his name. A foolish heir is unavoidable and if a fortune is once started down hill, by the heredity which visits the sins of the fathers upon the sons of the third and fourth generations, the cumulative curse distributes it more and more rapidly among the people.