

ten it out in accordance with the canons of the profession and the latest inspiration, it is none the less trying to be warned by the butcher, the baker, the candle stick maker that that is very poor stuff and a repetition of the offense will compel these representatives of noble and useful callings to "stop the paper." And the threat is not the trying part, but the necessity of assuming an attitude of attention to a purblind, fatuous candle stick maker. For although, to the three men in a tub, the editor exists on sufferance and by their unrewarded patronage, although they think him a superfluous, useless member of the community, whom they good-naturedly tax themselves to support, the editor himself knows better. He knows, and this knowledge is what makes him so elastic to buffets and contumely, that he is fulfilling a valuable if unrecognized function of the community he serves. How many years for instance, has Mr. Gere, the editor of the Journal, studied, read, pondered and recorded the conclusions of a subtle, keen mind in simple, direct language without impressing the butchers and bakers, with the value of his services to the community? Services that are not and never can be paid for by patronage. The influence of a good newspaper is incalculable and priceless. The deliberate choice of journalism by men and women with flexible and powerful minds is a fortunate phenomenon of this country. Such a mind is invariably rejected by the builders, and if it finally become the chief corner stone, it is through a chance of the builders' drowsiness and of some fortuitous energy rolling the stone into the place so long ready for it.

"Contrariwise," as the mockturtle says, in spite of our poor estate, our slender fortune, and men's disesteem, apprentices are pientiful and members of richer guilds leave their own calling to follow ours. Only a few days ago a mother said she had detected in her daughter signs of being able to put this and that together and make a sentence and from that a story. Therefore she concluded that when the maid was grown she would be a fit sacrifice to journalism. I told her she would do better to become a teacher. But the mother was unconvinced and reiterate that no child of hers should become a common teacher when she might get on a newspaper.

Religious Papers.

The Christian Register, a Unitarian paper, The Congregationalist, the New York Observer, a Presbyterian paper, Zion's Herald, a Methodist paper, The Catholic World, and a large number of religious papers representing the interests and expressing the doctrines of every large denomination are already in existence. They arrive the latter part of the week and their subscribers read them every Sunday with satisfaction and edification. Very able men are employed to edit them: much better scholars and writers than the Reverend Sheldon of Topeka. The Topeka Capitol is not the organ of any church. It has been a newspaper. If the stockholders and directors of the company succeed in converting it into a religious paper it will become a competitor of these denominational papers. Without denominational zeal or energy to support it, the chances are, unless edited with much more catholicity and originality than the editorship of Dr. Sheldon, that the Topeka Capitol will cease to extend its circulation, and become an outgrown and useless institution. The

\$50,000, which the paper earned during the week Dr. Sheldon edited it, has turned the head of the president of the company who thinks that all the church membership of America will subscribe for the Topeka Capitol. If it continue to exclude the news and publish only hortations from pious editors. The long-time editor knows better. Topekans are no better and no worse than other people and the editor knows if he stopped publishing the news, the Topeka Capitol would lose every subscriber who takes the paper to find out what is going on in the world. The people who subscribed for the paper during Dr. Sheldon's week took it to encourage a good but fatuously self-satisfied man, for curiosity, and because they fancied that it propagated righteousness. Such an impulsive, curious, illogical circulation cannot last. In refusing his consent to the transformation of the paper into a religious daily, the editor is within his rights and under the inspiration of common sense and experience.

Imitations.

House-furnishings, works of art, notions, fabrics, clothing, trinkets, flowers, drugs, fruits and groceries are purchased mainly by women. Man earns and woman spends because it has been demonstrated in thousands of years that man can better earn and woman can better spend. But lately man has been heard complaining that woman crowds and depresses the markets where, formerly, his labor was at a premium and that as a spender she lacks both good taste and judgment. A writer in The Chicago Tribune asks plaintively: "How can women be taught that cheap gilt belts, coarse, cotton roses, and tawdry satins are ugly to the eye, fairly devoid of use, and expensive at any price? How shall they be taught that a plain white muslin curtain is more economical and infinitely prettier than a monstrosity in figured lace? How shall they be taught that a good, washable gingham gown is finer in every correct use of the word than a cottony imitation silk, and, of course, cheaper? How shall they be taught that a plain oak chair, with simple lines, is more pleasing, easier kept clean, and more durable than a grotesque, machine-twisted shape, patched out with poor brocade?"

"The same questions enter into the choice of foods. Why buy an indigestible mince pie when you can have fine, wholesome red apples for a smaller sum?"

"All the worthless lace, gilt jim-cracks, and trumpery plush furniture, are manufactured to meet a demand; and the demand in cheaper goods apex the demand in more expensive materials. What if we find the kernel of the matter here? Women put large bunches of coarse flowers on their bonnets because the imported hats in the windows are loaded with finer ones. It may be that less conspicuous waste on the part of women who set the pace would lessen the sales at the shoddy counters." No matter how good an imitation is, it is an imitation and will be found out. And that moment of discovery is always a shock. An imitation is an insincerity. The house that is furnished in imitation leather chairs, and other imitations of various kinds of estimable woods, skins, and clays, creates inevitably a suspicion of the sincerity of the inmates, and a settled conviction of their bad taste. We are all more or less misled by cheapness, but it is better for the youngsters growing up in the house to realize that all their surroundings will bear investigation.

Real things contribute to self respect. Imitations are a device of the evil one to insinuate that the true is as good as the false if it look like it. A counterfeit is the cleverest and best of imitations, but it is a lie and the best counterfeiter rightfully gets the longest sentence. "Just as good as" is a phrase that all genuine manufacturers fight. We are so infected by it that the most sincere of buyers is occasionally seduced by it. But she is punished by a daily loss of self respect. The incurably ingenuous person is always rejoiced when an imitation chair breaks down, and when an imitation silk or linen dress wears out. As the buyers are women, they sooner than any one, can repress the tendency of the American manufacturer to produce imitations, by refusing to purchase them. The effect upon the boys who are growing up to be politicians, bank cashiers, merchants and manufacturers themselves must soon be apparent.

Clairvoyance.

The ex-ray which penetrates opaque bodies as easily as the eye sees through transparent ones is indisputable, though it has no name and nobody understands its operation. Clairvoyance (or clear-seeing) is an ex sense. Distance, opaque objects, or darkness cannot prevent the clairvoyant from seeing things that other people cannot see. The little Holmes girl of Peoria, Illinois, who located the drowned bodies of two people in the Illinois river is a clairvoyant. She sees the bodies as the ex-ray locates the bones in the body. The river that flows between her eyes and the corpses is not there and she saw them clearly. It is a sixth sense that we have not classified, that we cannot teach, that we have obscured by calling it hypnotism, mesmerism, spiritualism and what not. The genuineness of this little girl's clairvoyance seems to be established. Mercenary parents will doubtless cheapen and destroy it by stage exhibitions with all the usual accompaniments of cabinets, slates, and confederates. Even these manifestations may have been carefully arranged by designing showmen who lacked an attraction. The public has been fooled so long that all proofs must be infallible. If Gracie Holmes is more than usually clever or if she be a real clairvoyant, Professor Hyslop of Harvard College of the Psychological Research society will monopolise her manifestations and inform the public after ten years or thereabouts, if she is genuine.

Success.

Contrary to the story books and to the habitual addresses to the young, wealth and power are won by the man who works for it, who leaves nothing to chance but gets up early and keeps on thinking after other men have stopped to eat, drink and be merry. Politics and the politicians in Lincoln illustrate this philosophy. Let us take the aspirants for the United States senator from Nebraska. There are a few men here who have shown in the management of their own affairs a capacity for finance and a knowledge and practise of statesmanship. Such qualities are useful to a state and such men could be of large service to Nebraska and to Lincoln if elected to the United States senate. One of them might go but as the lightning plays about their heads not one of them is willing to move in order that another may get the full force of the shock. Meanwhile the rewards of industry, the sure effect of singleness of purpose and a true aim are ignored. Success is also its own justification. The practical politician who

has an organization that he can depend upon, whose members incessantly work for him has at least some of the essential qualities of leadership. Anyway he cannot be beaten by a disorganized, headless, mutually antagonistic opposition.

A Noble Record.

[These figures are taken directly from the records and are furnished The Courier by competent authority.]

Lincoln has had occasional "reform administrations" but never an administration that has done so much in the way of capable and energetic conduct of public business as the administration which the people will have an opportunity of giving their emphatic endorsement on Tuesday next. We have come to disbelieve so completely the possibility of efficient municipal government and it has been so persistently maintained that our city is hopelessly misgoverned and inextricably entangled in debt, that it has come as something like a shock to the community to learn that while the "reform forces" have been zealously talking of our distressed condition, the capable, energetic and conscientious men in charge of the affairs of our city have actually managed its affairs with as much care and effect as is displayed in any private institution, and with results far in excess of what would be deemed creditable in any municipality.

Some of the details of the recent city administration may be studied with profit. The assessed valuation of property in the city has been steadily decreasing for several years. Thus in 1897 the valuation was \$5,200,000; in 1898 it fell to \$5,017,597; and in 1899 to \$4,777,835. The ordinary course where the valuation falls is to increase the levy, but during the three years in question the levy has been reduced, having been 40½ mills in 1897, 38 mills in 1898, and 38 mills in 1899. Taking 90 per cent of the revenue as available, the city had in 1897 \$190,710; in 1898 \$171,614 11; and in 1899 \$163,401.19 upon which to operate. That is, in spite of the constantly falling valuation, the levy has been reduced also and the city has been operated each year at less expense to the tax payer. By the most rigid economy in every direction, not only has this been done without increasing the bonded debt, but at the same time the general indebtedness of the city has been steadily reduced. The floating indebtedness of the city, which amounted to about \$56,000, when funding bonds were issued, has been reduced to less than \$32,000 and at the present rate, will be about \$30,000 at the close of the year. Except for a temporary increase when the Mockett well was provided, which was soon overcome, this debt has been steadily paid off. This has been a benefit to the laborers of the city as well as to the tax payers. In 1893 the I. O. U's. of the city were selling at 35 per cent discount. Today the discount is commonly 3 per cent, or about the current rate of interest on such investments, and they often bring par, in the belief that such purchase amounts to a 2 per cent premium on the warrant. In this way the laborer who has to take one of those instruments receives his pay in full, whereas formerly he had to submit to a ruinous discount.

Even greater progress has been made in paying off the warrant indebtedness of the city. On March 1st, 1898 the outstanding warrants amounted to \$175,343 70; on March 1st, 1899 they had been reduced to \$144,723.70; and on the first of the present month they had been still further reduced to \$128,969 99. In other words,