

house. "In God's name, what shall I do?" she cried.

Katie told her mother that she was going to see the police judge, because, in her young mind, she could see the punishment was going to fall on the innocent family, instead of on its guilty head.

So she tied her hat on under her chin, kissed her mother good-by, and tripped away to the police court. She was a little bit afraid, but somehow she got in front of the bar and made this speech:

"Your Honor: Drink has almost ruined this man. If you send him to jail the disgrace will break his wife's heart. We will pay his fine. You don't know about the life of a long-shoreman. It is very rough and there is lots of temptation. My papa is one, and drank until I got him to stop. I have seen many men who were reformed by their wives. Don't disgrace Mrs. Schmidt by sending her husband to jail. I'm sure that Mr. Schmidt will do better."

And the judge rescinded the jail sentence and imposed a very light fine, and Charles Schmidt went home to his wife, at least a more thoughtful man.

That is all, but do you wonder that there are so many grand, good wives and mothers in the world when mere children are playing humanity's part?—Cincinnati Post.

CLUB LIST.

Any one of the following will be sent with THE COMMONER, both one year, for the club price. Periodicals may be sent to different addresses if desired. Your friends may wish to join with you in sending for a combination. All subscriptions are for one year, and if new, begin with the current number unless otherwise directed. Present subscribers need not wait until their subscriptions expire. Renewals received now will be entered for a full year from expiration date. Subscriptions for Literary Digest and Public Opinion must be new. Renewals for these two not accepted. Foreign postage extra.

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Kansas City World, da. exc. Sun.....	1.50	2.00
Nebraska Independent, wk.....	1.00	1.35
Rocky Mountain News-Times, wk.....	1.00	1.60
Seattle Times, wk.....	1.00	1.35
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"SELF GOVERNMENT!"



"Say, what's the matter with you democrats, anyhow? Ain't we letting the Filipino do as he pleases?"

Value of Human Lives

The startling information is conveyed in the report of the interstate commerce commission, relating to railroad accidents, that during 1903 there were 9,840 fatalities in America from this cause. It is shown that deaths from railroad accidents in this country average one person to every 2,000,000 that travel, while in Great Britain the rate is one death to every 48,000,000 passengers. The railroads of Great Britain and Ireland in 1903 carried 1,194,833,000 passengers, and of these but 123 were killed and 1,912 were injured. During the same year American railroads carried only 694,891,535 passengers, and out of these there were 355 killed and 8,231 injured. These figures also include employees.

The commission reports that since the adoption of the airbrake the fatalities from accidents have been reduced 32 per cent. There are thousands of freight trains running every day without this seemingly necessary appliance. Laws enforcing the use of airbrakes exist in many states, and the reconsideration is made that it become a national law.

From the appalling record as shown by the interstate commerce commission, it would appear that some great railroad corporations hold the value of human lives too lightly. Hundreds of innocent children, affectionate wives and mothers, intelligent and invaluable men are hurled into eternity in an instant; and why? Is it because of negligence on the part of the railroad companies? If so, then there must be a remedy, and that remedy must be reached through the laws of our land. Modern appliances would prevent many accidents. These appliances are in the shape of airbrakes, electric switches, block systems, cross-

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ing signals and many other contrivances that go toward reducing danger. For years efforts have been made in various states to have enforced laws that would compel the companies to adopt systems tending to reduce the number of accidents, but in every instance these efforts have been met with strong opposition. In this railroad companies have held the value of dollars above human lives.—Denver News.