

the usage that the chairman of the committee (Mr. Wheelock) should make the comparisons and the committee adopt his report. I shall cross this off my memorandum, and you can, if you like, lay it aside for Willie on his arrival, unless you have some other views."

THE COMMITTEE also finds that many of the charges made by Alexander are true or "measurably true." With respect to Hyde, it finds: First, That Mr. Hyde has habitually involved the society in transactions, especially of purchase of securities, which were of great magnitude, without the previously obtained authority of the executive committee. Second, That he carries large amounts of stocks belonging to the society in his own name, without there appearing any minute of any act of directors or committee authorizing it. That he has used the funds of the society to pay for certainly one social entertainment given in his name and the name of one other director of the society. Fourth, That he shared in the profits made by banking syndicates in effecting sales of securities to the society at a time when he was a member of the committee which made the purchase, he frequently voting for the same. Fifth, That he has been guilty of other acts which were irregular and not in compliance with the society's law or with sound business practice. The committee does not attach great importance to Mr. Hyde's explanation of these charges.

ONE may obtain from the Frick report many valuable hints showing the impunity with which the men in immediate control of these great corporations use their power to their own special interests, and in utter disregard to the welfare of the stockholders or policyholders. The Frick report shows that the last sub-committee

on salaries of which there is a record on the minutes was composed of two persons, one of whom receives a salary from the Equitable and the other a salary from an institution in which the Equitable is largely interested. On this point extracts from the printed report follow: "There were in 1905 thirteen executive officers in the society who held the same positions in 1900. In 1900 these thirteen officers received salaries aggregating \$297,000. In 1905 the same officers received salaries aggregating \$448,500, an increase of \$151,500, or 51 per cent. Of the thirteen officers, three have received no increase in salary since 1900. Deducting these, the average rate of increase to the other ten has been 61 per cent. The salaries of six of the thirteen show an average increase of 86 per cent. The salary of the vice president, which was \$30,000 in 1900 and 1901, was advanced to \$75,000 in 1902, and to \$100,000 in 1903. The rapidity of these increases is not only unusual, but there can be no warrant for them through any question of ability to retain the officers' services at lower rates of compensation.

At the time the vice president received a salary of \$30,000 he was 24 years of age. When his salary was increased to \$75,000 he was 26, and when it was again increased to \$100,000 he was 27 years old. These facts indicate that the experience of the officer in question could hardly have been considered a factor in the estimation of the value of his services. It is found that the vice president of the society, in addition to holding the presumably purely honorary position of director in over forty corporations, is vice president of three companies, from which he receives salaries aggregating \$17,000."

IN THE TABLE presented, showing the increase of salaries since 1900, appears the name of the secretary to Vice President Tarbell. Five years ago this secretary—a woman—was draw-

ing \$4,200 a year. In 1901 her salary was increased to \$7,200; in 1903 it was increased to \$10,000, and in 1905 it was increased to \$12,000. The committee finds that the percentage of increase in this woman's pay for the period covered—five years—was 185.7.

ON THE SUBJECT of pay roll the Frick committee report is as follows: "The way in which the directors, through their executive committee, and that committee through its sub-committee, have increased the salaries of the principal officers of the society quite naturally does not in its effect end there. An examination of the office pay rolls shows that the treatment received by each officer from the board is generally reflected in the treatment accorded by him to his subordinates. In these departments, of which the heads have received no increase in salaries, the salaries of the working force have remained constant or have shown such slight increase as appears to have been no more than consistent with the general tendency of salaries in all industries. On the other hand, those officers who themselves have been rapidly advanced quite generally have seen that their subordinates shared in their prosperity—at the society's expense. In the vice president's office four employees who received in the aggregate \$5,444 in 1900, receive \$13,900 in 1905, an increase of 155 per cent. In the second vice president's office six employees who received \$10,720 in 1900, receive \$24,840 in 1905, an increase of 132 per cent. The total salaries paid to employees of the president's office have increased 48 per cent since 1900; of the vice president's office 134 per cent, and of the second vice president's office 126 per cent. The total office pay roll of the society increased from \$770,282 in 1900 to \$1,177,501 in 1904, or 53 per cent. As compared with this the total income of the society increased but 36 per cent from 1900 to 1904."

"SCATTERED AT THE FEET OF MAN"

Did you ever pass an hour in conversation with a botanist without realizing your woeful ignorance of "the sweetest things that God ever made and forgot to put a soul into?" Did you ever listen to the instructions of an astronomer without being impressed with the great realities that are moving about you and shining above you, wondering all the time that you had neglected these opportunities? Did you ever listen to the orations of the sage whose philosophy inspires him in prosperity and supports him in adversity without realizing that at least some portion of your life had been wasted? Did you ever stand in the presence of a man who, reared in poverty had overcome all obstacles and climbed high into the tree of knowledge, learning so many things worthy of being known, and remembering everything he had learned, without feeling your own ignorance and your folly in failing to grasp what seemed beyond the reach of a man handicapped as you had never been?

The non-observing man sleeps upon his opportunities. Even the eminently practical may learn much to their advantage if they be not ashamed to give attention to the little things and to show some concern for the lessons that may be learned even in seemingly insignificant affairs. There are all too many of us who are like the man of whom it was said: "A primrose by the river's brim a yellow primrose was to him, and it was nothing more." But as the astronomer could point out truth and beauty in the skies, as the philosopher could direct attention to beauty and truth in philosophy, so the botanist could show truth and beauty, and beauty and truth in the yellow primrose by the river's brim.

In every fact of creation, in every incident of life, in every love and in every passion, in every duty and in every sacrifice there is a lesson to be learned; and it will do the busy man no harm if he becomes more observing of the things that are not intimately associated with stocks and bonds, with purchase and with sale.

Recently in the city of Omaha happened an incident that ought to be carefully considered by every human being. It had the elements of tragedy and there was in it a bit of comedy, too. It was fraught with lessons of love and of life, lessons which might give courage to the hopeless, lessons which might inspire the prosperous.

A man, brought to the depths of despair through his own folly, feeling that his career of usefulness was at an end, went to the river's bank

determined to end it all. Those who thought they knew this hopeless creature might have been pardoned for concluding that it would have been just as well had the man been permitted to carry out his purpose. But something happened which saved this being from a suicide's grave. We are told that just as this man was about to plunge into the current of the Missouri some one threw a little dog from the bridge. Instantly the better nature of the would-be suicide was aroused. His desire to destroy his own life was forgotten in his consideration for the little animal struggling in the waves. Instead of plunging into the water bent upon taking the life which it was his duty to preserve and use for the benefit of the world—he plunged into the stream and rescued the little dog.

Newspaper reports say that "with the wet, shivering dog nestling in his arms," the wet, shivering man applied for shelter at the police station. He refused to part company with his little protegee and the newspaper reports state, "when he went to sleep on the bench in the hall-way at the police station the little black dog was curled up on his breast."

The sufferings of the helpless dumb animal instantly appeal to the hearts of men. On the occasion of President Roosevelt's visit to the city of Lincoln a powerful dog jumped upon a smaller dog and was getting the better of him when half a dozen stalwart men rushed from the crowd, and taking the part of the smaller animal, beat off his assailant. It is well that men show such sympathy for the beast. But is it not strange that they do not show more sympathy for the man who, in some cases, through his own folly, in other cases through no fault of his own, is made to feel that he has reached the end of his period of usefulness, that the world has turned against him, and that self-inflicted death must be his portion.

It requires no great effort to lend a helping hand to an intimate friend, temporarily suffering under adversity, but real heroism is displayed when, without hope of recompense and merely "in His name," we reach out into the darkness and the gloom enshrouding a human being who has lost all heart and believes himself to be beyond all help, and do our part in the effort to rescue the perishing. Many men will be surprised to learn how far even a kind word or the warm pressure of a hand will go toward changing, or perhaps preserving, the life of a fellow creature.

Important as the lesson involved in the incident referred to may be to the more prosperous man, the greater lesson is to the man who has

lost hope. Words cannot describe the condition of "the man who has lost hope." That condition can be understood by one whose life has not been broken upon the wheel of adversity only when he imagines what his own career would be if hope were entirely removed from it. One might imagine that it would be impossible to revive hope within the breast of the would-be suicide; but the fact that there was so much good in him that he forgot his own sorrows in the sympathy he had for a dumb creature, provides conclusive proof that even to that most hopeless man life is worth living. The man who, under those circumstances, could display such love and tenderness, is capable, with a little encouragement, of conquering himself and proving to the world that it is better because he lived. He is but the representative of a type, and every one of his class is entitled to the tender sympathy and the substantial encouragement of his more fortunate fellows.

The finest tribute that could be paid to any man—and we must not forget that it may, in truth, be paid to many men—was given by Robert G. Ingersoll at his brother's grave when he said: "If everyone to whom he did some loving service were to lay a blossom on his grave he would sleep tonight beneath a wilderness of flowers."

There are so many heartaches and so many tears, so much grief and so much sorrow, so many heavy crosses to be borne by disheartened men and frail women, that it ought to be the pleasure, as it is the duty, of their stronger fellows to lend a hand.

Every tear that falls in response to another's woe, every handclasp meant to give reassurance to a faltering comrade, every word of encouragement uttered in the presence of a despairing creature, every sacrifice made by the prosperous for the unfortunate, provides healthy seed for fertile soil. It is, at once, a prayer and a benediction; a help to others and a help to one's self. It blesses him that gives and him that takes; and generous heart and grateful soul need give no audible utterance to the prayer which, although unspoken, beats about the great white throne and there interprets itself, in the very language of Tiny Tim: "God bless us, every one!"

If the busy man would but give some thought to the things going on about him in every hour of the day, he would learn that "the primal duties shine aloft like stars," and "the charities that soothe and heal and bless are scattered at the feet of man like flowers."

RICHARD L. METCALFE.