

holder the face of his policy without waiting for him to die and without touching the company's assets at all." The Inter-Ocean concludes: "We could play all sorts of tricks with our corn crop, so enormous and so valuable is it. And yet this is only one of our crops. When we consider it and the others we may well rejoice and thank God for our goodly heritage."

THE COMMONER HAS RECEIVED a large number of letters from the stock owners in "The People's United States Bank" at St. Louis, in which the highest faith and confidence in the integrity of E. G. Lewis is expressed. These stock owners insist that Mr. Lewis as president of the bank has been subjected to great injustice, and that at the time a receiver was appointed for this bank its total liabilities were less than \$225,000 while it had more than two and a half million dollars in assets, of which nearly a million and a half was available immediately as cash deposited in other banks. Many of these stock owners testify to a personal acquaintance with Mr. Lewis, and say that there is nothing in his conduct to justify the assaults made upon him.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT Panama and Costa Rica unite for mutual protection and benefit. A Washington dispatch says: "The department of state has been advised by Mr. Lee, minister to Ecuador and formerly consul general at Panama, that Senor de la Guardia, Panaman minister of foreign affairs, is about to visit San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, for the purpose of ne-

gotiating a treaty of annexation. The United States government is much interested in this proposed annexation, and it will safeguard its rights on the isthmus if annexation takes place. The treaty between the United States and Panama contains this clause: 'If the republic of Panama shall hereafter enter as a constituent part into any other government, or into any union or confederation of states, so as to merge her sovereignty or independence in such government, union or confederation, the rights of the United States under the convention shall not be in any respect lessened or impaired.'

THE LATEST line of credit given to President Roosevelt is particularly interesting, and is revealed in an article printed in a New York newspaper from which the following extract is taken. "President Roosevelt's doctrine of large families has had a stimulating effect on the New York city birth-rate. Cupid, too, has evidently been listening to what the president said, and as a consequence the ministers and the magistrates have been unprecedentedly busy tying the marriage knot. The bureau of vital statistics of the health department announced yesterday that during the first six months of the present year there were 50,943 births reported, as against 47,384 in the same period of 1904. The increase amounts to 3,559. In the first six months of 1905 there were 20,768 marriages, as against 19,295 in the same period in 1904. Nearly 3,000—to be exact, 2,946—happy lovers hearkened to the warning from the White House against race suicide, and resolved themselves into 1,473 happy couples. 'When you come to think about it,' said Health

Commissioner Darlington yesterday 'it seems very reasonable that President Roosevelt's utterances on the subject of large families have affected the birth rate, here and elsewhere. What he said was very widely quoted in the newspapers, and has occasioned a wonderful amount of comment. Marriage, as we all know, is a sentimental proposition and quite likely to be influenced by such declarations as those which the president has made.'

A LITTLE WHITE AND BLACK DOG named Jim has, according to a Little Rock, Ark., dispatch to the New York Herald, avenged his owner's death by revealing the murderer. In that dispatch it is said: "Jim was the only witness of the murder of his master, W. P. Burns, a wealthy farmer, of Pocahontas, Ark., 'Ed' Hubbard, a woodsman, is the convicted principle in the deed and 'Willie' Roberts, who was Burns' housekeeper, is charged with being accessory to the crime. But for Jim the crime would possibly have gone undiscovered, for it was his love for his master that sent him to the house of a neighbor, where his whines and actions suggested to the neighbors that something unusual had happened. The neighbor made a search, which resulted in finding the body at the bottom of the river and the ultimate unraveling of the plot that ended in murder. Jim did not stop with notifying the neighbors of the crime, but appeared in court, and when Hubbard was arraigned gave testimony of his hatred by showing his teeth and growling when the accused man was brought in—testimony barred by the law, but effective in the eyes of the jury."

LITTLE DROPS OF WATER, LITTLE GRAINS OF SAND

Several years ago New York newspapers told of a young man who, after years of faithful service to his employers, absconded with a considerable sum of money. That was the young man's first misstep, and the employer caused to be inserted in the newspapers an advertisement calling upon the young man to return and promising that he would not be prosecuted, but would be helped out of his difficulties. The young man read the advertisement, returned to his home, made a clean breast of his error, was forgiven by the man whom he had wronged, re-instated in his position and given every possible encouragement to recover his lost ground. It developed that the young man was in financial distress, and in a moment of desperation had used his employer's money. This incident occurred three years ago, and since then this young man has, at least to the satisfaction of his employer, justified the magnanimity which that employer showed.

It will not, of course, do for it to become a matter of general understanding that a man may embezzle and be forgiven; yet there have been, unquestionably, many cases in which the methods used by this New York employer could have been used with advantage by other employers.

The doctrine, "I am not my brother's keeper," is not the doctrine for thoughtful men. The man who persistently cultivates the notion that he is concerned solely in his own welfare and that he owes no duty to his fellows has not even begun to learn that life is worth living.

On a tablet in the First Methodist church in the city of Omaha is engraved, to the memory of a fine Methodist preacher, the best and highest tribute that could be paid to a human being. It is said of this man: "He was a helper of men." Incidentally it may be said that those who happen to have had the pleasure of this Methodist preacher's acquaintance well know that the tribute is entirely deserved, and that the man to whose memory that tribute is paid proved himself a helper of men whenever he came in contact with a human being who needed aid.

It is true that half the world does not know how the other half lives. A very large number of people are free from serious trouble, and many of these are entirely ignorant of the burdens borne frequently by their own immediate neighbors. It is indeed strange that so much of the trouble, the sorrow and the grief that exists in this busy world is concealed from the view of many men. But the man who is willing to lend a sympathetic ear and extend a helping hand very soon comes in touch with his troubled fellows and very soon learns of the sorrow and grief, concerning which less sympathetic men remain in ignorance. While it is not an easy task to comply with the injunction, "Bear ye one another's bur-

dens," the man who does his best to obey that rule obtains from life a great deal more than the one who utterly ignores that rule. "The drying up of a single tear has more of honest fame than shedding seas of gore;" and the world is full of tears; some of them are coursing down furrowed cheeks; some of them fill eyes that are rapidly growing dim; many of them are unshed and invisible. But if every tear may not be dried, if every wounded heart may not be healed, a word of sympathy and kindness will do much to assuage the grief which finds expression in the tear and the sob.

Kindness, like mercy, "is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes," and is, indeed, "an attribute of God himself." The One whose every act showed love and sympathy and kindness for men said: "And whosoever shall give to drink unto these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say to you he shall in no wise lose his reward." There is in this world today an opportunity for every human being to give the cup of cold water; and there is no waiting for the reward to be bestowed. The moment the cup is extended, that moment the reward is obtained.

A man bowed with grief because of the death of his beloved wife is given the warm handclasp that needs no words to explain what it means. That's the cup of cold water.

A woman, broken-hearted, yet, woman-like, strong even in the presence of the greatest sorrow, is the beneficiary of those little neighborly services which, while they have no voice, speak volumes in sympathy and love. That's the cup of cold water.

A merchant, staggering under adverse conditions, honest, although unfortunate, and striving to save the remnants of his business, is given a little extra patronage by appreciative customers and a little unusual encouragement by merciful creditors. That's the cup of cold water.

A man struggling against the power of an overwhelming appetite and sinking sometimes even to the gutter, is urged to try again and save himself from social oblivion. That's the cup of cold water.

The sisters of the Good Shepherd, devoting their lives to the rescue of fallen women. That's the cup of cold water.

The good sisters and the faithful nurses at the hospitals—all devoting their energies toward alleviating pain—none of them with proper recompense in the way of money, many of them without any financial recompense whatever. That's the cup of cold water.

The noble work done at the orphan homes in caring for the little ones who but for that work would be homeless. That's the cup of cold water.

The man who, thrown from a position through no fault of his own, finds assistance in obtaining

means of a livelihood, through the intercession of some busy yet sympathetic neighbor. That's the cup of cold water.

The little garments that are sent to cover the nakedness of some child of the poor. That's the cup of cold water.

The contribution to the empty larder of the destitute, the supply of medicine to the poor and sick. That's the cup of cold water.

The visits to the sick and injured. That's the cup of cold water.

The word of cheer to the stupid or thoughtless lad who finds the greatest problem of life to be the mastery of his simple studies. That's the cup of cold water.

The mending of the broken toy provides comfort to the little lad and the repairing of the tattered doll checks the sobs of the little girl; and that's the cup of cold water.

In this day some of us may be too proud to remember, and certainly many of us are too dignified to repeat, that little jingle so familiar to our childhood days: "Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land; little deeds of kindness, little words of love, help to make earth happy like the heaven above." Yet, would not the world be considerably better if that simple little verse were placed over every desk in every counting room in the land, so that he who runs may read and he who reads may profit for himself and give profit to his fellows?

Someone has said: "The best portion of a good man's life is the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love." Every tear that falls in sympathy with another's woe, every handclasp that is meant to assuage another's grief, every word that is given to provide encouragement to one who stumbles and falters on the way, every smile and every cheer and every sigh and every tear that is the product of our loving kindness contributes to the progress of the world, to the advantage of humanity and to the upbuilding of our own precious selves.

A man will obtain the best in life when he strives for that condition where thoughtlessness gives way to thoughtfulness, where love for one's self is well balanced with love for one's fellows, where men are not too dignified to mingle their tears with the tears of a grief-stricken neighbor, where the word of comfort is every ready for the benefit of "these little ones," for the relief of the despairing and the help of the disconsolate. Then, whatever creeds and doctrines may say, the bearer of the cup of cold water, writing "finis" to his life's work, may, without fear and without trembling, face the great unknown with: "Now Ietest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

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