

"young men for war" is apropos. It is he that sticks the prodigies, mounts the parapets and on over into the ditches to rout the enemy. Mature minds in older bodys are better suited to counsel, direct and pass judgment or mature plans; but the young man for original ideas and for execution. The young man has ambitions to be gratified. The sage sees how little the gratification of ambition gratifies after it is gratified. Hence it is that the young man is always for new worlds to conquer while those who begin to feel the weight of years are disposed to rest upon their laurels already won—which become less and less attractive each succeeding year—sit back in their easy chairs and say to the boys all right go ahead and conquer them. Thus, the periodicity of the usefulness of life may very properly be divided into eras that go to make up that life.

Had Dr. Osler anticipated that a literal construction would be put upon his facetious remarks on those past sixty, or that it would be taken seriously, he doubtless would have dilated upon the pleasure of extending one's days indefinitely beyond that period of great usefulness, when it is unfortunate that the circumstances of all reaching that happy period of life will not enable them to retire and enjoy the balance of their days "in peace and plenty," rolling in the fruits of their toil and the recreation that relief from fatigue duty affords while watching with keen interest the effort of others in their long chase up the steep hills and over the rugged rocks of life after fame and fortune, but content with observation and comment and passing judgment upon their works and worry over the great foot-race or scramble of life.

Find enclosed a leaf from the May number of the "Medical World" (Philadelphia, Pa.) published by Dr. Taylor, wherein will be found an extract from Dr. Osler's address which sets forth just what he did say upon that occasion with comments by the editor.

H. H. McClune, York, Pa.—Here with find \$1.50 renewal for Commoner and Volume V of "Commoner Condensed." I am pleased that this opportunity to get The Commoner Condensed is given. It is certainly the best ready at hand political compendium published. It deserves a place in every private and public library.

William Zimmerman, Alderson, W. Va.—Enclosed I send a clipping from the Cincinnati Post. I believe that you and all your many readers will agree with me in saying that the subject matter treated of in this editorial of the Post is one of the most baneful as well as the most subtle influences for evil with which real reformers have

A Companion

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to contend. It is also one of the most difficult to counteract.

If I were to undertake to write an editorial for The Commoner as I see many of its readers do, I don't know of anything I could possibly say which would be likely to accomplish half so much for the great cause of civic reform as this short editorial of the Post:

WHO DOES THE EDITOR REPRESENT?

"Another idol has fallen from its pedestal.

"Professor George Gunton, editor of Gunton's Magazine, is charged with being a bigamist.

"Worse than that—it is alleged that the trusts and big corporations have contributed not less than \$500,000 to put the professor's magazine into the hands of the people, and his former wife alleges that Gunton receives the sum of \$15,000 a year as a retainer from the Standard Oil company. And this latter statement tallies with that made by Ida Tarbell, that Gunton has been paid \$15,000 a year by the Standard Oil company for fifteen years.

"As all those who have read his writings well know, Gunton for several years has been a leading apologist for the trusts. Corporations that enjoy special privileges have had in him a leading champion. He has long admired and advocated the centralization of commercial affairs.

"It is therefore fortunate for the public to know that he speaks as a hired mouthpiece. Because when the people know who the hired attorneys of the special interests are they can rate their utterances accordingly.

"Would it surprise the reader to be told this fact?—Certain editors, who pose as the friends of the people, do not hesitate to tell their intimate friends that they have as much moral right to take money and write for special interests as an attorney has to take a fee and serve these interests.

"Which raises several questions:

"Who does the editor represent? To whom does he owe fealty? To the readers of his paper or to the corporations who want to hire him? Who does he stand for, his constituents—the public—or the enemies of the public? The questions answer them selves.

"The editor of a publication has taken a retainer as the special attorney of his subscribers. He is in their pay—and in their pay alone. To accept a fee from another source is to turn traitor to his clientage.

"Moreover—The parallel of lawyer and editor does not hold in this: The lawyer is free to accept a fee from any comer. He betrays no interest. There is no string around him save that of good citizenship. The public has not paid him to represent it. The public has paid the editor. The editor has been retained by his fee—the subscription to his paper.

"Besides—the lawyer says to everybody, 'I represent so and so, I am paid to appear in his interests. Look out.' But the editor who is bribed to serve other interests than those of his true clients carefully conceals his relations. He knows he is a traitor. The secrecy of the relations is what makes the man dangerous. Let it be known that the editor is in the pay of corporations and his power and influence cease at once.

"Gunton put his economic theories on the high plane of public weal. That gave him power. His motive might be questioned by some, but the many believed in his sincerity. But now that he is known as the hired advocate of special privilege his vocation is gone.

"There is always the comforting thought that few editorial mercenaries escape final judgment. In this case of Gunton and others it is pretty well established that treason to the people, like murder, will out."

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"Another purpose of books is to enlarge the mind, to brace the mind, to enable the people to find pleasure, not only in the relaxation of literature, but in hard work, in the stiff thought of literature. The hard work of literature conveys to those who pursue it in sincerity and truth, not only utility, but also real enjoyment."

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