



EDITORIALS



OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

War and Peace.

ONE of the curious features of the present international situation in regard to armaments is the indisposition to increase war implements and military forces on any other ground than that of self-defense. No government in Europe would to-day dare ask for increase of taxation for purposes of military conquest. No nation wants an army; and yet many nations are armed in a degree unknown before in the history of the modern world, because other nations are armed. It is a great mistake to imagine that, because the financial budgets of the great powers show almost annual increase in expenditures for the army and navy, therefore warlike feeling is growing, or that the love of peace has not gained ground or that the horror of war does not deepen, year by year. England feels obliged to keep a navy afloat equal in power to the navy of any two other countries purely as a matter of self-defense. She increases her armament because Russia and Germany increase theirs, and she increases it under protest. Germany adds continually to her military resources, although there is not the slightest doubt that the Emperor desires peace. In this country the only ground on which people would tolerate the increased expenditure for the navy which has been made in recent years has been the ground of self-defense. The commerce of the country is so great, the possibilities of complication so many and the armaments of the other nations of the first rank so large, that, so long as these conditions continue, the great majority of Americans, who hate war and who profoundly believe that the genius of America is peace, feel also that the country must have adequate protection, and have it ready at hand in case of an unexpected need. The world is in arms to-day under protest, each country keeping up its force because every other country keeps up its force.—New York Outlook.

World's Fairs Not Profitable.

EXPOSITIONS where great sums are expended for architectural and other displays are not immediately profitable. If they are ultimately profitable the gain is too remote and obscure to be susceptible of trustworthy estimation. There is reason to believe that they are an injury rather than a benefit to the cities where they are held. They attract great numbers of workmen and others while the money is going for construction, etc., and there is an appearance of prosperity. This appearance is prolonged while visitors are pouring in and spending money, but the cost which is borne in the first instance, mostly by local purchasers of stock, is never covered by receipts, or anywhere near covered. A great share of it is lost beyond recovery. Some are benefited in various ways, but on the whole the loss exceeds the gain. The exposition city sustains injury in consequence of a sudden boom in real estate, followed by a long season of depression and dullness. It sustains still more injury from the influx of an undesirable population, which to a great extent remains stranded and a public burden, taking the form of an increase in pauperism and crime.

This has come to be so well understood that it will probably be more difficult hereafter to induce people to contribute the money for the preliminary work. It is not improbable that in future world's exhibitions the exhibits will be much less extensive and more choice. This would greatly reduce the cost, and the results would be more satisfactory to those who get a comprehensive view of what is going on in the world. Less bigness, less of the gorgeous and spectacular, will make world's fairs more profitable and of greater educational value.—Chicago Chronicle.

Art of Keeping a Secret.

PERSONS that can keep a secret are few. A secret seems to give most people a colic until they relieve the pressure by breathing the treasured information into other ears. Even when the secret reflects shame on the possessor he is sorely tempted to share it with somebody. In that case the instinct for confession takes the place of the vainglorious motives which, in other cases, loosen the tongues of the custodians of a secret. The ordinary person, having a secret, feels proud of it. He goes

about with the thought in his mind that he knows something that would amaze people should they be informed of it. Like the barber of King Midas, of Phrygia, who discovered that his master had asses' ears, he must tell the news or burst; but he seldom displays the shrewdness of the barber, who whispered the awful information into a hole in the ground and then covered up the hole.

Stevenson said that a Scot would keep a secret just for the exercise of keeping it, but even Scotia has its babblers. Human nature is instinctively communicative. There is scarcely a human being, man or woman, that has not one confidant. The rarely gifted persons that absorb secrets as black felt absorb light, giving out nothing and into whose unyielding breasts secrets may be deposited in the firm faith that they will go no further, are not to be found on every corner. They are almost as scarce as centaurs.

There is only one secure method of keeping a secret, and that is to keep it. A secret may be defined as information known only to one person. Telling a secret to one friend, though he be pledged with awful oaths to let it go no further, is like taking the first drink of whisky; it is the initial step toward danger. So long as the toper refrains from the first drink he will not get drunk, and so long as the treasurer of a secret keeps it locked up closely in his own mind, communicating it to no one at all, the secret is safe.—San Francisco Bulletin.

Is Crime Increasing?

WHENEVER a crime of unusual turpitude is committed, and particularly whenever a number of such forbidding events occur in quick succession, we hear much about the "epidemic of crime," accompanied by lugubrious comment on the effect that wickedness is increasing, that it is outrunning the growth of population, that the country is rapidly degenerating. It has become the settled conviction of minds chronically indisposed to look upon the sunny side of things that the criminal population is increasing at a more alarming rate than at any time in the country's history, yet no proof is at hand to support this pessimistic view.

Penologists are awaiting trustworthy and sufficiently comprehensive statistics on this interesting subject. Samuel J. Barrows, Commissioner for the United States on the International Prison Commission, declared in a paper published in 1903 that for want of any comparative statistics in the United States it is extremely difficult to say whether criminals are increasing with reference to the population, inasmuch as so much depends upon the activity of the police. Mr. Barrows observes that as social relations multiply the standard of propriety and good conduct and of social protection is constantly raised, and when new laws are rigidly enforced "we may expect an increase for the time being in the number of offenders until society has adjusted itself to the new requirements."

It may be noted that the system of news gathering has been brought to a high pitch of efficiency in our day. Every crime of importance occurring almost anywhere in the country is immediately reported. We hear very much more about crime than our forebears did. The diligence of the reporters and the news agencies creates the impression that the world is growing worse. The law-abiding millions attract little attention.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Travesties on Religion.

THE religion which does not appeal to the mind and the soul, and which does not attract because of innate worth, is of little account. The sooner it goes the better it will be for all—save the sensational clergyman, who is compelled to gather congregations by methods bordering on the methods of the circus ring. The American is fond of the spectacular at times, and in moderate quantities. But he neither believes in megaphonic spectacularism nor in mixing religion and tight rope trapeze performances. He may not be a deeply religious man, but he has a wholesome sense of the proprieties. It is never a matter of trouble for him to detect the difference between the mountebank in the pulpit and the clergyman who preaches because he believes and relies on his belief for the holding of his flock together.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Vagaries of a Language.

The vagaries of English spelling are well illustrated in the following extract. The words sound properly but the spelling does not correspond to the meaning required. It would make a good exercise in spelling to rewrite the extract in its proper form:

Know won kneads weight two bee tolled thee weigh too dew sew.

A rite suite little buoy, the sun of a grate kernel, with a rough around his neck, flue up the rode as quick as a dear. After a thyme he stopped at a blew house and wrung the belle. His two hurt hymn and he kneaded wrest. He was two tired to raze his fare, pall face. A feint mown rows from his lips.

The made who herd the belle was about two pair a pare, butt she through it down and ran with awl her mite, for fear her guessed wood knot weight. Butt when she saw the little won, ters stood in her eyes at the site.

"Ewe, poor deer! Why dew ye lye hear? Are yew dyeing?"

"Know," he said, "I am feint." She boar hymn in her arms and hurried to a rheum where he mite bee quiet, gave him bred and meet, held a cent bottle under his knows, untide his neck scarf, rapped him up warm and gave him a suite drachm.—St. Nicholas.

When a woman writes a letter she covers everything from putting the milk picher out in the morning to the cat out at night, and then ends with an apology because she doesn't write more.

LITERARY LITTLE BITS

The citizens of Geneva, Switzerland, have presented Stanley J. Weyman with an illuminated and inscribed address and a bust of Calvin in token of their appreciation of his novel of Geneva "The Long Night."

Clara Louise Burnham in Jewel has drawn one of those delightfully natural pictures of child life which have a charm for all classes of readers. The heroine is a lovable child and is blessed with a sense of humor.

A novel by Stanley Weyman is always an event of interest to those who love a good historical novel. His new story is to be published by Longmans, Green & Co. It is a historical romance of France when Henri Quatre reigned.

The Grafton Press, New York, well known for intelligent attention to genealogies, biographies and local histories, has added a genealogical department conducted by an expert and experienced genealogist. This is a timely recognition of an interest that is growing noticeably in this country.

Charles Hemstreet, the authority on Old New York, has decided to become the manager of a press clipping bureau in New York. Speaking recently of his decision, he said: "I give up literature after a fair and impartial trial of eighteen years, fully convinced that the prospect of the old age of an author is not alluring."

Levett Yeats, who made readers grateful for his first book, "The Honor of Savelu," has a new story, which is also a historical romance, coming out under the title of "Orrain." The scene is laid in the days of Henry II. of France and its historical interest centers in the struggle between Catherine de Medici and Diana de Portiers.

W. E. Morris has furnished a new story entitled "Nigel's Vocation." It is a story of a young man who, having joined the church of Rome and having been admitted to a monastery as a novice, finds himself recalled to the world by the inheritance of a large estate. The schemes of many persons to supplant him and complications which arise from his love affairs form the story.

"Christian Science" is the title of a book which Mrs. Mary Platt Parmele is about to publish, perhaps has published by this time. In it she is said to inquire if it is either Christian or science, and to "discuss dispassionately" its claims, benefits, limitations and errors. This seems queer, since we have been told that Christian Science aims to put mankind in a receptive attitude, so as not to obstruct or evade the acts or will of God toward his creatures. And if this be true how can there be either limitation or error in the influence it seeks to aid?

Mrs. Emily Post's new book, "The Flight of a Moth," will be published by Dodd, Mead & Co. The heroine is a young and beautiful American widow, who, after her husband's death, does exactly what she pleases. From her childhood on, until the last day of mourning for her husband, she has been held back from having a good time. When the book opens she goes to Europe with only her maid, and decides to make up for lost time. Her sister warns her that she is like a moth and will burn her wings, but she declares that she would "rather be a burnt moth than a crawling worm."

Mrs. Florence Morse Kingsley, the author of "The Singular Miss Smith," is widely known through her various historico-religious novels: Titus: A Comrade of the Cross; Stephen: A Soldier of the Cross; Paul: A Herald of the Cross; The Cross Triumphant; The Transfiguration of Miss Philura; and Prisoners of the Sea. She was educated at Wellesley College, and married the Rev. Mr. Kingsley in 1882. Since 1902 she has been on the staff of the Ladies Home Journal. She does her literary work, she says, "from 9 to 12, while the children are at school." Her new story is described as a decidedly clever skit on various phases of social life and women clubs; but it is also an attractive and unusual love story.

Not Satisfied With the Place.
Mrs. Backlotz—So your servant girl has left you again?
Mrs. Subbubs—Yes.

Mrs. Backlotz—What was the matter?
Mrs. Subbubs—She didn't like the way I did the work.—Philadelphia Press.

Still at It.
"Childhood's hours are the happiest times of one's life," sighed the disappointed man.

"Oh, I don't know," chirped his companion, "I don't see but that I can watch a ball game just about as well as I could forty years ago."—Detroit Free Press.

"It's an outrage," a man said to-day. Still, it's not the only one.

AMERICAN FLAG IN BATTLE

Record of the Union Standard from Brandywine to Santiago.

Although the resolution by which the flag became a national standard was not officially promulgated by the secretary of Congress until Sept. 2, 1777, it seems well authenticated that the regulation stars and stripes were carried at the battle of Brandywine fought Sept. 11, 1777. This shows that the contract entered into by Betsy Ross must have been carried out with great expedition, and that the flags had been distributed among the line regiments of the revolutionary army early in September. The flag first displayed in battle at Brandywine Creek had thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, and as a union thirteen white stars were displayed on a blue field.

The flag which was carried by the men in blue and buff during the battles of the revolution remained unchanged until the first day of May, 1795, when, by a previous act of Congress, two additional stripes were added to the body of the standard and two stars to the union. These additions were made to represent the States of Vermont and Kentucky, which had just been admitted to the federal union. As no further change was made in the national flag until 1818, it follows that the regimental colors carried during the war of 1812 were of this design. Thus the American flags surrendered by General Hull at Detroit, and those captured by the British at Bladensburg and Washington must all have displayed fifteen alternate red and white stripes, as well as the fifteen stars of the union.

In 1818, by an act of Congress, the stripes of the national flag were again reduced to thirteen, and it was declared that the addition of a star to the union should thenceforward represent each new State. A newspaper of the time, still kept in the government archives, said: "By this regulation the thirteen stripes will represent the number of States whose valor and resources originally effected the American independence, and additional stars will mark the increase of the States since the present constitution." From this time on the increase of stars in the constellation which formed the union was steady, and during the war with Mexico, in 1846, twenty-nine white stars were displayed in the blue field.

The flags borne by the regiments of the northern army during the four years of the great civil war had thirty-five stars in the union. This was the full number of States then forming the national federation, as the United States government had refused to recognize the constitutional right of a State to secede from the union. The retention of the stars representing the Southern States was regarded as a serious breach of military etiquette by the more punctilious of the Confederate leaders, and the capture of one of the Federal standards was always well rewarded by the authorities at Richmond.

The regimental flags carried by the regular and volunteer regiments during the Spanish war of 1898 displayed forty-five stars in the blue field of the union, ten new States having been added to the federation since the great civil struggle which so nearly severed the republic. This was also the first foreign war in which the State troops of the reunited country appeared in the field together, and it was the first occasion on which former Confederate officers of high rank resumed the uniform of the United States service. The great garrison flag which was hoisted over Santiago after the surrender of the city by the Spanish commandant measured twenty feet in width by thirty-six feet in length, the forty-five white stars which formed the union showing distinctly against the bright blue of the field.—Philadelphia Record.

Never Saw a Railway Train.

A pleasant story, originally told of a Scotch Highlander, is served up in somewhat novel guise in a New York paper. This time it is ascribed to a Kentucky mountaineer, and the dialect is adapted accordingly. But the main incidents remain the same. The young man had never seen a railway train. One day he consented to go to town and see the wonder. He arrived a little ahead of train time, and, getting impatient as he waited, he walked up the track to meet it. Turning, about the mountaineer ran along the track as for his life.

"Foot, toot," sounded the locomotive, slowing up; but the mountaineer only ran faster than ever. He soon reached the station, completely out of breath.

"Why didn't you cut across?" inquired one of the bystanders.

"Cut across?" exclaimed the uncouth youth. "If I had struck the ploughed ground the thing certainly would have caught me."

Bad Case of Throat Trouble.

Wrubber—You look badly this morning, old man. What's the matter?
Klubber—Throat trouble.
Wrubber—Tonsillitis?
Klubber—No; my wife talked to me for three hours after I got home this morning.—Philadelphia Record.

THE FINEST ROAD IN KOREA.



Although Korea is noted for its poor roads, most of them being little more than bridle paths, there is one marked exception. This is the highway shown in the accompanying picture, which is said to be the finest causeway in the Far East. It leads from the Imperial palace in Seoul to the tomb of the murdered Empress of Korea, some fifteen miles distant. The road is fifty feet wide. It is traversed twice a year by the Emperor, attended by 4,000 or 5,000 Korean soldiers. The Empress to whose grave these semi-annual pilgrimages are made was very bitterly opposed to the Japanese. It is alleged that she was killed by Jap soldiers at the instigation of the minister from Tokyo.

Appetite of the Eskimos.
The Eskimos have enormous appetites. An arctic explorer relates that he saw a boy eat ten pounds of solid beef food and drink a gallon and a half of liquid with much gusto. This same explorer observed an adult eat ten pounds of meat and two candles

at a meal. Sir P. Phillips tells how a lad of 17 years ate twenty-four pounds of beef in twenty-four hours.

Greeks Increase Fast.
The population of Greece is increasing faster than that of any other country in Europe at present.