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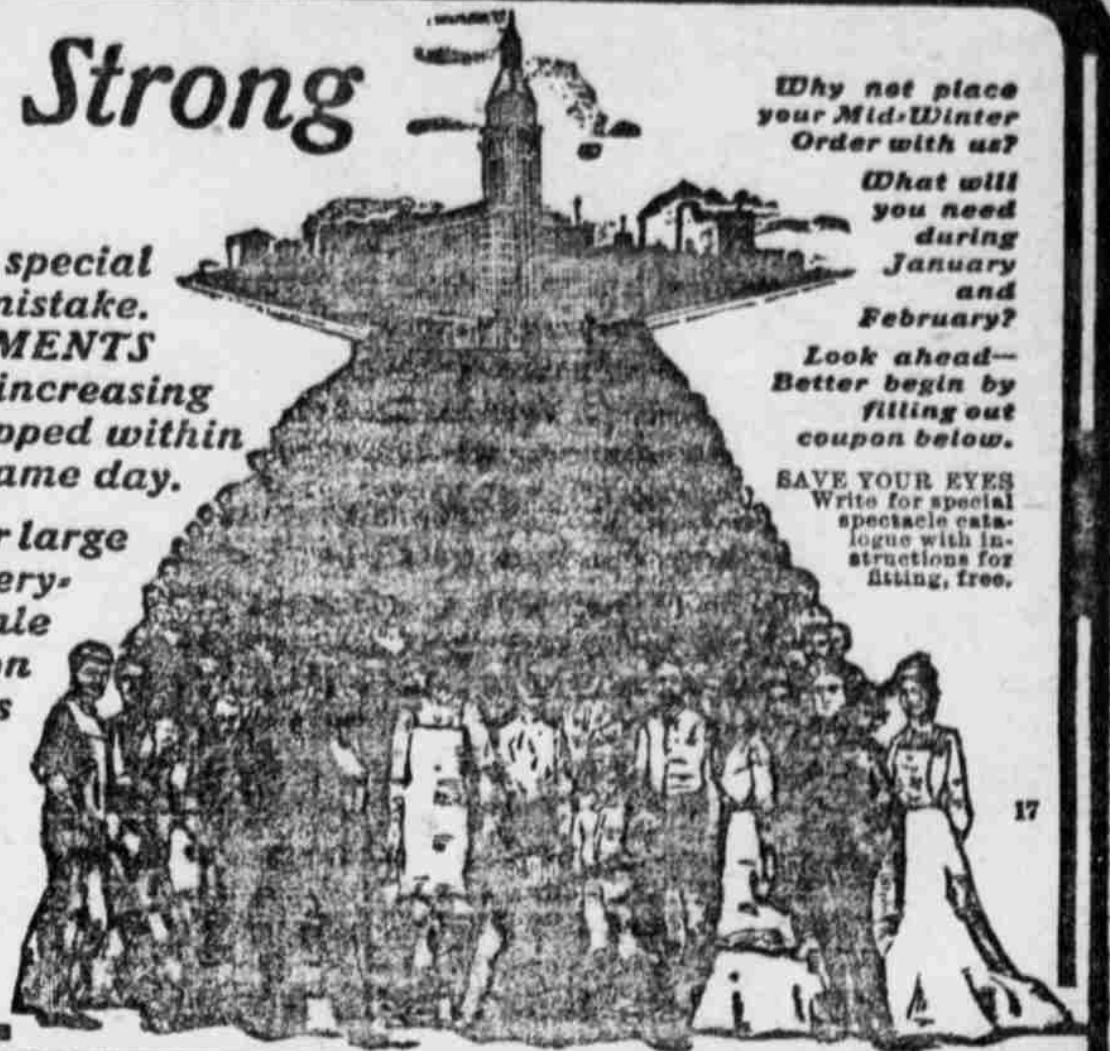
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The New Commandment

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."—St. John, xiii., 34.

At the mouth of every anthracite coal mine in Pennsylvania is a large building called the breaker (where coal is assorted and separated), and close at hand is a great pile of black, powdery stuff called the culm heap.

Sometimes the culm heap is an eighth of a mile long and sixty feet high. It consists of the small coal and coal dust sifted out by the breaker.

Now, in strict justice, these culm heaps are the miners' and not the mine operators' or mine owners'. Because in the anthracite region the miners are paid, not so much a day, but so much a carload, and before they are allowed for a carload a percentage of the weight is deducted to cover the culm, the slate and the other refuse in the coal.

This deduction, by the way, is calculated arbitrarily by a person called the "docking boss," who stands where he can see the cars shoot past him, and notes a deduction on each of from 30 to 55 per cent. He has no idea of how much dust or slate there may be in the car, because he sees it for only a second, but he assigns the dockage anyway, and from his award made in this way there is no appeal.

Part of the coal thus deducted from the car goes to the culm heap; the rest goes to the market and is sold.

The miner has mined the stuff that goes to the culm heap, but he has not been paid for his labor in mining it. Until he has been paid the company has really only a part right in it.

The culm heap will burn and has a certain value, but the mine operators make no use of it, because it is more profitable to ship the big coal. So the culm lies there and accumulates, year by year, and is of no use to any one.

It is very cold up the mountains now, cold and wet, and because of the strike the poorer people had no way to heat their houses. So some of the miners' wives and children went to the culm heaps, which their husbands and fathers dug out of the earth, and carried away a little of the dust in baskets. And then the state of Pennsylvania, at the request of the

mine owners, stationed its troops about these culm heaps with orders to shoot any one that attempted to take a handful of the stuff.

We suppose that the "Christian men" to whom "God in His infinite wisdom" has committed the lives, welfare, intellectual development, bodies and souls of these poor creatures, on whom depend their chance to grow and live and enjoy the beauty and glory of living, to have sunlight and hope and cheer, we suppose these "Christian men" have never heard of this dreadful incident. Otherwise they would have stopped it if to stop it took the last cent of their fortunes.—Chicago American.

Books Received.

A Book of Verses, by Nixon Waterman; published by Forbes & Co., Boston and Chicago.

The Hand of God in American History, A study of national politics, by Robert Ellis Thompson, president Central High School, Philadelphia; published by Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York.

Pamphlet, entitled In the Fields of Rhyme, by Harry Hampton Williams, Rockda's, Tex.

How to Become a Good Mechanic, by John Phin; a practical guide to self-taught men; published by Industrial Publication Co., New York.

Life, a book of poems by Edwin O. Ropp, Bloomington, Ill.

A pamphlet, entitled Did William Shakespeare Write Shakespeare? by Ge. I. Warren Keifer, Springfield, O.

The Religion of the Future, or Outlines of Spiritual Philosophy, by Rev. S. Weil; published by Arena Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.

The American Farmer, by A. M. Simons; published by Charles H. Kerr & Co., 56 Fifth ave., Chicago, Ill. Price, 50c.

Pamphlet, entitled Aggressive Common-sense, or Rights of American Workers in the Dawn of the Twentieth Century; edited and published by E. E. Harding, Tracy, Minn. Price, 15c.

The Nose of the Camel.

The nose of the European camel is now well within the Venezuelan tent. The camel itself will not be slow to follow. And presently, it is to be feared, another murdered republic will be added to the score.—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat.

The Passing of the Paw-Paw

The growth of civilization, or, rather the increase of population within the limits of this great state, is said to be responsible for the disappearance of the paw-paw. The persimmon is left, though it is becoming scarcer with each succeeding year. There are 'possums yet to be found and quail may be seen in smaller flocks than formerly. The typical fruit of Missouri, the luscious paw-paw, is fast disappearing along with the red Indian and the buffalo. There are some paw-paw brushes in obscure places where the rude hand of the iconoclast has not reached, and there are some cultivated paw-paws to be found in gardens here and there. But speaking generally, the Missouri paw-paw is becoming a thing of yesterday.

As a state we have gone from the paw-paw to the banana stage. We buy our fruit at street-stand instead of wandering out in the wild woods in the fall-time and finding it. We have reached the breakfast-food stage of civilization. We eat soft stuff with a spoon instead of scrambling over the hills and through the briars in search of the forest fruits. What will become of a generation thus brought up instead of one fed upon persimmons and paw-paws? We fear it will lack iron in its blood, strength in its muscles and the ability to stand up alone underneath the blue sky. The paw-paw and the persimmon period passing takes with it the days of the pioneer who worked long hours and played hard, who knew nature and man. The

banana age brings in leisure hours and flabby morals and soft and silken ways. Alas, that the paw-paw should perish from the earth.—Walter Williams in Columbia (Mo.) Herald.

The Louisiana Purchase.

Callaghan & Co., of Chicago, have just issued a work by Jas. Q. Howard entitled "History of the Louisiana Purchase." It discusses the Louisiana region prior to the year 1700, the period of settlement and transition, the treaties of 1782-3, the period of Spanish rule from 1784 to 1789, the first step to secure the navigation of the Mississippi, Louisiana from 1793 to 1797, Louisiana during the term of John Adams, the transfer from Spain to France, the great treaty of April 30, 1803, Bonaparte's motives for selling Louisiana, a contrast between conditions of 1803 and 1900 and a supplemental chapter on the Creators and Preservers of the Republic.

The author is so devoted a disciple of Hamilton that he seems unwilling to give Jefferson credit for the acquisition of this important piece of territory.

On December 19 the house passed the pure food bill by a vote of 72 to 21. In brief this bill provides for the exclusion of any article of food that is adulterated or misbranded, and contains a provision that such articles may be taken and condemned.

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