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### "Philanthropy."

When Claude Duval made goodly haul And gathered many a purse, He'd loudly call his poor friends all With merry jest and curse; And then and there, with jaunty air, He'd divvy up the swag; Then quick prepare to hie elsewhere Upon his mettled nag.

But bear in mind that in this kind Of work a danger lurked, And one might find a rope entwined About one's neck, then jerked. Indeed, one day, I'm grieved to say, Claude found the rope was there; And then, straightway, this robber gay Performed a dance on air.

But now we find a different kind Of highway men at work, Though bear in mind they work behind A most self-righteous smirk. "I'm God's trustee, so trust in me," We hear them smugly say; "Philanthropy is good to see— And we are it—let's pray."

They do not ride the countryside With pistol and with knife; Nor have they cried: "Make haste, de- cide!

Your money or your life!" God bless you, nay; these men today A better plan have wrought: At home they stay, but make you pay A tax on all you've got.

They buy the right to squeeze us tight And pay for it with "fat." Then to requite, work day and night To hold us up with that. And with their gains they take great pains

To make their victims see That galling chains are silken skeins Of sweet "philanthropy."

Our pirates bold now gain their gold By smoother work and tricks. They are enrolled and keep their hold On party politics. Results are same, and to our shame We somehow fail to see, Because they name their robber game "Modern philanthropy."

They swung Claude high 'twixt earth and sky, And Captain Kidd all curse; So why pass by these men, say I, Who are as bad—or worse. I can't, my friend, quite comprehend What difference there may be 'Twixt Duval's wend, or old Kidd's trend, And this "philanthropy."

### Some Little Fables.

#### BENEVOLENT ASSIMILATION.

The uniformed forces of the Great Nations marched through the country of the Little Peoples, scattering death and destruction on every hand.

"Why do you thus come to de- stroy us?" queried the Little Peoples. "Nay, we come not to destroy, but to build up. We have come in our enlightened unselfishness to bestow great benefits upon you without effort upon your part."

"But we were happy and satisfied until you came."

"Ah, yes; but your happiness was of the Baser Sort."

"Perhaps; but until you came we knew nothing of booze, of infidelity, of burglary and of rapine."

"But we would make you acquainted with these things in order that you may know how to avoid them."

Moral: Any old excuse goes when you must give one.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The arrogant capitalist refused to

confer with the representative of the workmen.

"Why do you refuse to meet us as man to man?" asked the representa- tives.

"I do not believe in organization," replied the capitalist.

"But you belong to an organization that is fighting labor unions."

"Quite true, but we have organized to protect property, while you have organized only for the protection of human life."

Moral: There's nothing cheaper than human life.

#### PROTECTION.

An infant industry lay deserted and wailing by the roadside.

"Help! help!" wailed the Infant In- dustry.

"Poor little dear; I wonder what is the matter?" said the Thoughtless Wayfarer.

"I have been left here to struggle through the world as best I can," cried the Infant Industry.

"Then I will take you into my own home, feed and clothe you, and make you strong."

So saying the Thoughtless Way- farer took the Infant Industry to his fireside. A few years later the Thoughtless Wayfarer was thrown over the transom, and the fully grown Industry sat with both feet upon the table.

Moral: They will play the infant dodge as long as it will work.

#### THE REFORMER.

The People murmured and grow restive under the conditions imposed upon them by arrogant and merciless masters.

"There is something wrong," de- clared The People.

"That is true," said The Reformer.

Thereupon The Reformer pointed out the wrongs and suggested the remedy, which lay close at hand and was marked "The Ballot."

"What you say is true," responded The People, "but if we use the reme- dy you will receive too much credit for having prescribed it."

So saying The People continued to suffer rather than be cured.

Moral: Those who quietly suffer wrong deserve it.

#### THE MERGER.

Acting upon what they thought was a promise of relief from extortionate rates, The Consumers consented to the enactment of a law permitting com- peting railroads to pool. No sooner was the pool completed than rates were hoisted to beat a balloon, where- upon The Consumers murmured.

"You asked us to consent to this thing in order that you might reduce expenses," said they.

"Quite true," replied the promoters of The Merger. "And we have been enabled to materially reduce our op- erating expenses."

"But you told us that ability to re- duce expenses would result in a low- ering of the rates."

"Not so," retorted the Promoters. "We merely said that a reduction in expenses would enable us to lower rates without reducing profits. But we did not promise that the rates would be lowered."

Carefully noting the subtleties of the En- glish Language, wherein they were not previously posted, The Con- sumers retired to make the best of it.

Moral: Lawyers make big fees fig- uring up just such little deals.

#### PUBLICITY.

The Amalgamated Trusts, fearing

that the people would at last be aroused and do something worth while, proposed that the remedy of Publicity be applied.

"But what good will that do?" queried The Victims. "We already know that the hooks are being thrown to us."

"But Publicity will call attention to our methods and make us more care- ful."

Not knowing what else to do The Victims were satisfied to take Pub- licity. Whereupon the Amalgamated Trusts threw off all disguise and went to work more industriously than ever to gouge Plenty.

"We know all about you now," cried The Victims, "but wherein are we benefited?"

"Ah, you are daily adding to your Store of Knowledge," replied the Amalgamated Trusts.

Moral: A little knowledge is not dangerous as long as it has no effect on the ballot.

#### THE FLOOD.

No sooner was the ark completed than Noah and his family set sail, and the widows of the heavens were opened and the fountains of the great deep were broken up.

"This is the worst that ever hap- pened," said Noah to Ham.

"And the worst that ever will hap- pen," replied the dusky son.

"I don't know about that," said Shem. "The Bull and the Bear down in the hold are already planning up something they refer to as Wall Street."

Fortunately for Noah, however, he was never called upon to make his get-away from a flood of undigested securities.

Moral: Water is always wet.

#### Brain Leaks.

Faith is hope in full bloom. A little at a time means a lot at the end.

Better have men laugh with you than at you.

Some men with bad characters man- age to secure good reputations.

Better be an old maid from choice than a wife by sufferance.

Some men can claim a vindication on a mighty thin technicality.

One of the funniest things about the "comic supplements" of the Sun- day dailies is the name.

### Are We Honest?

I believe you are, and I am willing to let you judge me. I honestly be- lieve I have a book worth a dollar to you, and I believe you will think so after you see the book. The book is one I published myself, and it is made up of the poems and sketches that have appeared in the "Whether Com- mon or Not" department of The Com- moner, and in other publications. I wrote them all myself. The book is cloth bound, gold side and back stamps, foreword by Mr. W. J. Bryan, and has 277 pages. The price is One Dollar.

#### A FAIR PROPOSITION.

If you say so I'll send you the book on suspicion. If you think it is worth a dollar, send me the money. If you do not think so send the book back in good condition—natural wear and tear expected—and we'll call it square. I make this offer for two reasons—one is I think the book is worth the dol- lar, and secondly, I think you will think so and send me the money.

#### AN OPEN CONFESSION.

Perhaps you would like to know why I am so anxious to sell my book. I'll tell you—I need the money. Now drop me a card and say you'd like to receive my book on suspicion. I'll take it for granted you are willing to pay for it if you like it and think it worth the money, and I'll send it to you by the next mail.

WILL M. MAUPIN,

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