

and the other factors of discrimination. But failure after failure in the experiments to regulate the conduct of the railroads and other combinations in restraint of trade has convinced a large part of the American people that so long as the railroads—the public highways of trade and commerce—are owned and operated by private monopolists it will be impossible so to regulate their conduct as to give the "square deal" which is the essential. The public mind, accordingly, turns to a public service like that of the postoffice.

It being a fundamental principle of our organized society that public highways are more the property of the state than of private owners, and their operation more the function of the state than of private owners, and this principle having been applied from the beginning of our government, and it having been proved (in

the postoffice) that a service can be performed through public ownership and operation to give equal rates to shippers of the same articles, it remains only for the voters of the United States to determine whether the economic waste of government railroads like the government postoffice, is not far outweighed by the economic saving and other advantage of the "square deal" that could be given, under public ownership of railroads, to all shippers and, in conscience, to the general public of the United States.

Mr. Bryan's radicalism in his railway program is precisely the radicalism of a publicly managed postoffice. It terrifies no one today but the enormously wealthy owner of monopolies. It will gain supporters as the number of failures at regulating the privately owned railroad highways increase—as they will.

### Old Hickory's Tender Side

Thomas B. Gregory writes for Hearst's New York American the following interesting contribution to "Nooks and Corners of American History."

When I first read the account of the duel between Andrew Jackson and Charles Dickinson I took a dislike to the "victor" in that "affair of honor" that abided with me for years.

Jackson's action in the affair was so deliberate, so cold-blooded, so remorseless, I said to myself: "He was a bad man, a brute, devoid of the simplest principles of humanity"

I have since changed my mind, and while the brutality of the Dickinson duel is still uppermost, the brutality appears to me in a different light from what it once did.

When Jackson settled in what was then called West Tennessee he boarded with a Mrs. Donelson, with whom also lived Mrs. Donelson's daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Robards.

Without cause Robards became violently jealous of Jackson. A distinguished judge, who was at the time a fellow boarder with Jackson in the Donelson home, says that Jackson was very much disturbed by the trouble he had caused between Robards and his wife—a gentle, pure-minded, sensitive woman—and of Jackson himself he wrote: "In his singularly delicate sense of honor, and in what I thought his chivalrous conception of the female sex, it occurred to me that he was distinguishable from every other person with whom I was acquainted."

Conscious of his own chivalry and of the woman's purity, Jackson said to Robards with the fire and impetuosity that always characterized him: "If I had such a wife I would not willingly bring a tear to her beautiful eyes." But Robards, unable to appreciate Jackson's reverence for womanhood and wifehood, applied to the Virginia legislature for a divorce.

Hearing of this application, Jackson was thoroughly aroused, and, going to Natchez, where Mrs. Robards and her mother were stopping, he asked Mrs. Donelson for permission to marry her daughter. To the mother's query, "Mr. Jackson, would you sacrifice your life to save my child's good name?" the answer came like lightning: "Ten thousand lives, madam, if I had them!"

In the summer of 1791 Jackson was married to the woman for whom he had innocently made so much trouble—two years before the granting of the divorce—although at the time of the marriage it was the opinion both of Jackson and of his friend, Judge Overton, that the divorce had been given.

In 1793, when the truth was made known, Jackson immediately obtained a license, and, in the presence of wit-

nesses, had the ceremony again performed.

Jackson and his wife lived together most happily, until a few weeks after her husband's election to the presidency, she died broken-hearted over the scandalous talk that was being made about her having been married "without a divorce."

Charles Dickinson was one of the good woman's slanderers, it seems, and on that account it was that Jackson challenged him to mortal combat and, being on the field, killed him so remorselessly.

The hounding to death of his wife whom he so dearly loved, was never forgotten by the general, and when he became master of the White House he demonstrated the fact most effectively.

All the world has heard of "The Ladies' Battle" that came off in Washington during Jackson's administration.

Jackson appointed his old friend General Eaton, secretary of war. That was all right; but the ladies of the Washington smart set were determined that his wife should not be recognized.

For a time it looked as though Mrs. Eaton was going to get the worst of it, and, like Dundreary's bird, would have to "flock" all by herself; but Jackson came to her rescue.

When the fine ladies thought they had things all fixed "Old Hickory" sprang into the midst of them and swore:

"By the Eternal, the spiteful cats who plagued the life out of my patient Rachel shall not scratch this brave little Peggy!"

#### WANTED A DARKER SHADE

Jacob Riis has a story of a little lad who shines shoes for a living. This boy goes to a mission Sunday school, and was keenly disappointed when, at Christmas time, his gift from the tree turned out to be a copy of Browning's poems.

Next Sunday, however, the superintendent announced that any child not pleased with his gift could have it exchanged. Jimmie marched boldly to the front with his.

"What have you there, Jimmie?"  
"Browning."  
"And what do you want in exchange?"  
"Blacking."—Harpers.

#### Handling the Knife

"You say he is a professional sword swallower?"  
"Yes."  
"I don't understand."  
"You would if you'd watch him eat."  
—Milwaukee Sentinel.

#### Unappreciated

"Dis paper says Americans work

too hard," said Meandering Mike.  
"Dey sure do," answered Plodding Pete. "An' de public won't realize what reformers you an' me is."  
—Washington Star.

#### Concentrated Hopes

"Has that young man any expectations in life?" asked the stern father.

"He has," answered the heiress.  
"What are they?"  
"Me."—Washington Star.

#### His Degree

Knicker—He signs F. O. C. G. after his name.  
Bocker—Yes, that means Father of College Graduate.—N. Y. Sun.

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