CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN

By D. M. AMSBERRY,

BROKEN BOW, - - NEBRASKA.

An Objection to All Reforms.

Tudor Jenks, discussing reforms and reformers in the November number of the World's Work, avows with considerable self-satisfaction, that he has spent no small portion of his life in skillfully avoiding the advocacy of any reform for long at a time. Mr. Jenks says: "There has been only one serious objection to each reform in turn as it presented itself. In every case I have found the theory delightful, and have longed to make it my own; but also, in every case, I have been saved by the reformers themselves. In short, the trouble with each reform has been the advocates of it. So long as it could be approached as a set of mental ideas, there was something delightful in the thought of becoming one of the elect of the earth—of separating one's self from the opportunists; of joining some devoted band of martyrs; of living and (theoretically, of course) dying for a cause. But just as I have reached the full flush of youthful enthusiasm, it has always been my fate to be presented to some light of the new faith, some enthusiast whose ideas seemed to fit him little better than his clothes; whose extravagancies of speech or of manner matched his extravagancies of hair; who was so absorbed in his own peculiar cult as to be entirely oblivious to the many advantages derivable from enlisting me in it. And it may be that in my wounded self-esteem lies the secret of the repugnance which the reformer has aroused against the reform." This observer concludes that we should be well on toward the millennium were it not that the reformers drive away those whom the reform attracts. In fact, he goes on to say: "The trouble with reforms is invariably the reformers; and I wish respectfully to suggest to all those whose mission it is to better mankind that they commit their thoughts to writing, and forward them in due course of mail to such organs as will put the arguments into cold type. The advantage of type is that it never wears reform costumes; is always habited in a decent suit of black; never goes on talking when the object of the reform wishes to drop the subject, and is by its very nature confessedly devoted to a single topic."

Victims of Shooting Season.

Seventy-four slain by gunfire is the record of the shooting season, which lasts just about as long as the foot ball season. Of these victims, most were actually shot at, their rustling in the bushes being taken for that of a deer. No intelligent comment on this chapter of accidents is possible without knowing whether the homicides were green hands, afflicted with an acute form of buck fever, or seasoned sportsmen caught off their guard. The former seems most likely to be the case. However that be, hunting for deer must still count as an extra hazardous pursuit, and the recurrence of these tragedies of the woods year after year, says the New York Post, suggests that the state may yet have to institute tests for the use of a gun, as it does for the handling of a motor car. Meanwhile, it cannot be too emphatically said that the sportsman who under any circumstancets will shoot at a noise is guilty of criminal carelessness. Unhappily, the law hardly reaches the emergency, for no one ever classes himself in the great roster of gun-bearing fools until he has potted his man—or, as in several cases this year, his woman.

Most of us have had the experience of belonging to some literary society or club or debating circle which consisted of little more than a name and a list of members. For such at least there is a suggestion in a speech by the president of the National Federation of Women's clubs, and perhaps some societies that really engage in literary work may profit by it, too. Said Mrs. Decker: "I know a small western town that has ten Shakespeare clubs. Grasp, if you can, the full horror of that. But the streets of that town are dirty, and esthetically the place is dead. There is no care for child life, no interest in sanitation, no regard for the larges issues—it is all Shakespeare." In its place and informed by proper spirit the study of Shakespeare is a large issue. But consider the poetry of a clean street!

The wealth of each person in the United States, as figured by the census bureau, was $1,336.01, on June 30, 1901. The one cent is probably for a postal card to send to Washington to inquire why you haven't received yours.

Dean Jackman of the University of Chicago is of the opinion that there is no such thing as a lazy boy. Here is where many a fond but experienced father will take direct issue with him.

Chairman of Canal Commission.

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Theodore P. Shonts is head of the body in control of the work of digging the Panama waterway. Mr. Shonts was formerly president of the "Cloverleaf" railroad.

FIRST SCHOOL IN WEST.

OLD DOCUMENT GIVES CAHOKIA, ILL., UNIQUE HONOR.

Log Courthouse Recently Brought to Chicago from St. Clair County Recalls Pioneer Days—Built of Black Walnut.

Chicago.—Cahokia, the quaint little "deserted village" way down in St. Clair county, almost on the banks of the Mississippi, is now claimed as the cradle of the great free school system of Illinois by members of the Chicago Historical society, who have brought to light an old document dated May 6, 1794, in which the citizens of Cahokia request "the judges of the honorable court of Cahokia" to allow them to hold their first public school in the courthouse. The old courthouse, said to be the oldest in the west, is now situated on Wooded island, in Jackson park.

The old document, which fixes the time of the founding of the Illinois schools, was discovered a few weeks ago after it had been hidden from human eyes for almost 100 years. It is written in French. Translated it reads as follows:

"To the Honorable Gentlemen, the Judges of the Honorable Court of Cahokia:

"The inhabitants of the parish of the Holy Family of Cahokia have the honor to express to you at their assembly that they have the desire to establish a school in the said parish (or town) for the instruction of their children.

"As they are obliged to do many necessary public works in the parish, they cannot at once undertake the construction of a building necessary to hold the said school, so these representatives ask you gentlemen that you allow them to hold the said school in your audience room of the courthouse until they construct a building which will oblige all the inhabitants whose children have their instruction in the school, and in which case should there arise any defacement of the said audience room, they will leave it in the best condition which you judge necessary and proper.

"That is why they supplicate you to accord them this request as being necessary for the public good. In this cause they submit themselves to your good will and have the honor to be, very respectfully.

"Your very humble and very obedient servants, Louis Sebrun.
"Louis Grand."

"Cahokia, 6 May, 1794."

This, according to the historians, was the first request for a public school in Illinois after the revolutionary war, when, under one of our first laws, one section in each township was set aside for school purposes.

With the erection in Jackson park of the old courthouse in which the first Illinois schools were held, Chicago now possesses the only original historic public building west of Boston or north of New Orleans. The structure was the seat of local government in Cahokia, in what is the oldest county in the state.

It was under the royal regimes of King Louis XV. of France and King George III. of England and finally under the American stars and stripes during the administration of the first president, George Washington, after the expedition and bloodless victories of George Rogers Clark in 1778, when he captured the Northwest Territory from the British.

The little building is constructed of square black walnut logs, about ten inches square on the ends and one story high. The logs are set up on end in the style of the construction of the French period. The overhanging roof makes the top of the porch, which extends all around it. At the end is a chimney and fireplace, with the old hand-wrought andirons.

The ancient town of Cahokia was the settlement of the Cahokia tribe of Indians, one of the Illinois confederation, and the village was possibly located as early as 1682, but the beginning of the history of the village practically dates from the founding of the church of the Holy Family about 1700 by Father Francois Pinet, S. J., who also founded the Guardian Angel's mission at Chicago about 1696.

Father St. Cosme, in the journal of his voyage in 1699, states that his party conducted from Chicago by Mr. De Tonty was rejoined at Peoria by this same Father Pinet, who was accustomed to spend his summers at the Chicago mission.

The Cahokia courthouse was built about 1716, according to local history, and was the next oldest building to the church. It was early used as headquarters for the notary and civil officers and local military officers under the French, British and Americans when in Cahokia. It was also called the "garrison," occupying the most commanding corner of the public common in the center of the village, where it overlooked all the roads and approaches to the town.

Pontiac, the great Indian chief, was assassinated in Cahokia about 1709 while engaged in one of his conspiracies. The building occupied the middle of a small plot of ground and formerly was surrounded by a stockade fence. A small iron cannon occupied each corner. These were swept away or buried in one of the great floods.

Elevator Ride Is Fatal.

New York.—Medical skill was unable to check the nervous decline of Mrs. Frank Hennion, which developed after her return from a shopping trip to New York, and she died at her home at Morristown, N. J. Mrs. Hennion received a severe shock while taking her first ride in an "express" elevator in New York. She entered the elevator on the tenth floor of a skyscraper occupied by a furniture company. After returning home she complained of a headache and a painful illness set it. Physicians diagnosed her ailment as lockjaw. They concurred in the opinion that the disease resulted from the terror experienced in the elevator ride. Mrs. Hennion was 26 years aid.

20,000,000 TONS OF ORE.

New Deposit in Canada Equal to Holdings of the Steel Trust.

Cleveland.—The new deposit of ore recently discovered in Canada upon examination is shown to contain almost as much ore as all the holdings of the steel corporation, with the exception of the Hill properties lately purchased. This information has caused much comment among iron ore men, and it is said that independent interests in Buffalo and Pittsburg are negotiating for the property. This new ore-bearing property is situated about 20 miles east of Port Arthur, and is about threo miles in width and six miles long. According to recent tests the body will contain slightly upward of 20,000,000 tons of ore.

Estimates of the grade of this ore vary. One is that it will run about 70 per cent. in metallic iron and within the limits of Bessemer quality on phosphorus, and having a low percentage of sulphur. It is also declared that the moisture amounts to only about one per cent., whereas that of the Mesaba range averages eight to ten per cent. It is declared that this new ore adheres more closely to the analysis of the Old Range Bessemer, and will be available immediately for open hearth and Bessemer processes of making steel. It is declared that the 20,000,000 tons indicated is the minimum that is likely to be developed.

An Easy Recipe.

By simple silence one displays
Great wisdom here below.
It is by speech a man betrays
How much he doesn't know.
—Washington Star.

OLD COLONY ON WANE

LAST REMAINING SETTLEMENT OF FRENCH PASSING AWAY.

With Decline of Fisheries little Town on Island of Miquelon, Off Mouth of St. Lawrence, Fast Becoming Depopulated.

Sydney, C. B.—The last remaining settlement of the once vast domain of France on the North American continent, the little fishing town of St. Pierre, on the island of Miquelon, off the mouth of the St. Lawrence river, is fast becoming depopulated. Grave concern is felt by the French government over the serious condition of affairs. The feeling of the French government over the shrinkage in this tiny island possession is not due to pride alone. From the intrepid marines of Miquelon she picks the men from whom she builds the fighting strength of her navy.

The exodus of the inhabitants of Miquelon has long been noted. Canada is striving to build up her great northwest and is offering strong inducements to immigrants. The fishing industry of St. Pierre has been a failure for the last two or three years, and with the sole means of sustenance taken from them the descendants of the hardy French explorers have faced actual starvation.

Government steps have been unequal to relieving the privations endured by its colonists. Recently 100 immigrants landed at North Sydney from one schooner in charge of Dr. T. A. Brisson, head of the colonization department for the province of Quebec. Dr. Brisson says that on the next trip 200 more will come, and that the end will not be even then, and the population of Miquelon is numbered only by hundreds.

The hardiness that has made the men of Miquelon famous in romances of the sea will now be employed in new ventures. Nearly all the able-bodied men have been promised employment in pioneer railroad construction, and others will seek somesteads in the wheat belt.

France has made determined efforts to maintain this foothold in the west. When the tide of emigration set from the island she filled up the gap with colonists from the fishermen of her own shores. But with the decline of the fisheries and with the ceaseless struggle for a meager existence growing continually harder, the colonists have refused to remain.

WORLD'S MOST POLITE MAN.

Many People Would Probably Regard Him as a Crank.

Clarksburg, W. Va.—Never guilty of having said a cross word to anybody is the record of Robert Wilder, of Clarksburg, and, furthermore, he is highly respected by his relatives, which is saying a great deal. No Frenchman or Japanese could be more polite than he.

When Wilder was held up by a highwayman near Dugan's Dam, Mr. Wilder handed over $13.26 and apologized for not having more with him.

He was working on the roof of a tall building when a fellow employe struck him. Wilder, without the least display of anger, picked up his assailant, and, after begging his pardon for the annoyance he was subjecting him to dropped the man head first upon a pile of rocks. He showed his forgiving spirit by writing a nice obituary for the local paper.

Wilder smiles when a person tramps on his corn, and congratulates his wife on her discernment when she calls him names.

Taken ill one day, he insisted upon telephoning the undertaker, expressing regret at the trouble he might cause him.

UNCLE SAM PAYS MINNESOTA.

State Allowed $67,000 for Indian War During Rebellion.

Minneapolis, Minn.—The national government will pay the state of Minnesota $67,000 to defray the expenses of the Indian war in this state in 1862-3. The uprising came just at a time during the civil war when it looked as if the north would have England to fight as well as the south. Thousands of armed Indians rushed over the border from Canada, and the national government was unable to protect the settlers.

The state raised militia under Gov. Ramsay and the invaders were chased beyond the borders and hundreds of them were slain, but not before many settlers had been massacred.

After the close of the war the state made a claim on the national government for the cost of the war, and it has been hanging fire ever since.

Auto Runs Printing Press.

New York.—The electric motor which is used to drive the press in the office of the Staten Island Advance in West New Brighton, broke down the other afternoon, and an expert from Manhattan found it could not be repaired without being sent to Philadelphia to be rewound. John Crawford, Jr., the editor, found no other office in Richmond borough could print his 16 page paper, so he took his 35 horse power direct drive automobile up alongside the building, had a hole knocked through the side of the wall, and the shaft of his press run out through the building. A belt then was adjusted to the shaft of the automobile and the paper was run off successfully.

A Good Resolution and What Came of It

OUR NEW YEAR'S BIBLE STORY

By the "Highway and Byway" Preacher

Scripture Authority:—Daniel, Chapter 1; especially verse 8.

SERMONETTE.

Aside from the question of religious principles which is involved in this incident in the life of the young man Daniel there are others of a moral character which emphasize important lessons for young manhood of to-day. First of all there is the lesson of loyalty to God in whatever place and whatever circumstances one finds himself. When at Rome to do as the Romans do may be the most politic and the most popular and pleasant, but it brings no such reward as comes to the brave soul who when away from home and amidst conditions of moral chaos, stands firm for clean living and pure thinking.

Then we find here the lesson of self-control; the mastery of the animal appetites and desires. It is only through such conquest that the higher qualities of mind and heart can be developed. Plain living makes for clean thinking. Where the stomach holds the scepter, mind and heart are but vassals, never rising above the plane of the mere sensual and temperal.

Self-control is marked by three elements. First that of discernment, the recognition of good from bad, wholesome from the unwholesome. Where there is lack of moral sense, failure to draw a sharp line between those things which lift up and those which lower and degrade, there can be little of self-control, for the life exists only for the whims and desires of the moment, much as with a child, that knows no higher law than those of the physical senses. The first step then to self-control is discernment of the right.

The next element of self-control is that of decision; determination to follow the right course.. Multitudes of young men know right from wrong who never reach the second stage of self-control, who never decide for the right. They know they ought to, and they are always going to, but they lack that positiveness of character which brings them to the place of willing to do the right. There is no doubt that there were many Jewish youths other than Daniel and his three friends at the king's palace who knew the right course for a Jew to take, but they lacked that decision of character which would have placed them unwaveringly on the side of righteousness.

And the third element of self-control is consummation. The life is transformed by the will within. Decision becomes crystalized into deeds, and the high ideal becomes the reality. To will and to do become one. Many a good intentioned life, many an inward purpose to do right never attains because the outward conduct has not been conformed thereto.

One other lesson we wish to draw for the young man of today. It is that of influence; the power of one life over that of another. We may well question whether Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah would ever have taken the stand they did had not Daniel bravely stood forth and declared his purpose. "No man liveth to himself alone." It is simply impossible for one to go through life without exerting an influence either for good or ill. And your decision upon an important line of conduct may lead others to right choice. What is your influence?

THE STORY.

It seemed like such a little thing and yet Daniel as he faced the issue realized that it was the crisis of his life. Should he or should he not partake of the bounties from the king's table?

Why, what else was there that he could do? he asked himself. There he was a captive in the king's palace, and there was the food provided for him. If he ate not he would incur the displeasure of the prince under whom the Hebrew captives had been placed and perhaps endanger his life with the king. And then, what was he to eat if he did not eat that which the king had so bountifully and so generously provided?

That day he and others of the captive Hebrew princes had been brought from their rude quarters, and were told by the interpreter that henceforth these sumptuous apartments were for their use. Ever since their arrival at Babylon under guard of the soldiers they had been quartered in a rough building adjacent to the soldiers' quarters, and that day Ashpenaz, the prince of the king's eunuchs had visited them and chosen certain of them and taken them to the palace, a wing of which was set apart for the use of the young men whom the king was having trained for his service.

And the change had been a welcome one, for these Hebrew princes had been accustomed to the comforts and luxuries of the royal court at Jerusalem, and when it was told them that they were to be educated in all the learning of the Chaldeans, they all felt, especially Daniel, more reconciled to their lot. So it was that when the evening meal was served all were in quite a cheerful mood, and fell to eagerly partaking of the rich bounties spread before them.

All but Daniel. The food before him remained untouched, and as we have already said his conscience troubled him, for it was an abomination for a Hebrew to partake of food which had been offered to the heathen Gods, and was not food from the king's table rendered sacred by reason of having a portion offered to their gods?

This fact had been emphasized and impressed upon his mind during the formal ceremony that afternoon when they had been received into the palace, for each had been given a new name in token of their dedication to the service of the king in the names of the Babylonian gods. To him had been given the name of Belteshazzar, prince of the god Bel, and now they were expected to partake of meats and drink offered to idols.

"But what else could he do?" he asked himself again. "Why should he, a Hebrew slave in a heathen court, draw such fine distinctions? Did not circumstances absolve him from his obligations to the God of the Hebrews? And then too, how tempting did the viands look before him. He felt impatient with himself for letting such thoughts trouble him and gave outward expression to the inner irritation by a shrug of his shoulders and a savage shake of his head.

This Ashpenaz, who had just entered the hall, noted, and sent for him.

"What a comely-looking youth he is," the prince muttered to himself as he waited. "Thoughts of home have robbed the boy of his appetite." And then aloud as Daniel came before him and bowed, he said, abruptly:

"What ails thee, my son? Speak, and fear not," he added, as he noted Daniel's confusion.

Now it was not in the nature of Daniel to dissemble and so frankly he told the prince that it was defilement for a Hebrew to partake of that which was offered to idols.

"But are not these, thy brethren, eating of the meat which the king has sent them?" inquired Ashpenaz, in surprise. "Why shouldst thou let the laws of the Hebrews trouble thee here? Thou art no longer in Jerusalem but in Babylon. Act in accordance therewith."

"But why may not plain food which has not been offered to the gods be given thy servant to eat?"

"Plain food!" exclaimed Ashpenaz, in alarm. "Plain food! Dost thou not know that thou art to be prepared to go before the king? and why should he see thy face worse looking than these thy brethren? Then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink."

With these words Ashpenaz dismissed Daniel and he returned to his place but the food before him remained untouched. That night three of his friends came to him and inquired of him why it was that he had not eaten and what it was that Ashpenaz had said to him, for they had observed what had transpired.

"I am resolved," replied Daniel, simply, "that I will not defile myself with the king's meat."

"Then what will you eat," demanded Mishael. "We are in Babylon now, not Jerusalem, and we cannot starve."

"But the God of the Hebrews still lives. I will serve him," Daniel responded, firmly.

"Let us ask, Melzar, our steward, to test us and see if the plain diet worketh ill with us," exclaimed Hananiah, suiting his action to the words and starting off in the direction of the steward, who had just appeared in the doorway.

Finally after much persuasion, and many misgivings on the part of Melzar, the latter gave his consent to the test, and thenceforth Daniel and the young men he had influenced to faithfulness to their God had their plain food to eat, and at the end of the ten days which had been agreed upon and Melzar had looked upon their face he was delighted with their appearance and declared that they should continue to have the same food.

Not long after this Ashpenaz was inspecting his wards and in his rounds found Daniel and his friends.

"Ah," he said, as he greeted Daniel, "I thought thou wouldst be wise. See how fair and well-favored thy countenance is, and see these thy friends here are as comely as thou. Surely the king's meat was what thou didst need."

And Ashpenaz passed on before Daniel could speak well-pleased with himself and the conditions about him.

Thus time went on, and although Daniel and his companions were often the butt of ridicule at the hands of their associates, who reveled in the good things sent from the king's table, and although it cost them many a struggle to remain firm to the resolution so bravely made in the face of difficulty and danger, they had their well-earned reward in the end, for at the end of three years when they went into the presence of the king and were examined before him it was found that among them all there was none like unto Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah in wisdom of mind, and beauty of physique.