



# By Theodore Roosevelt

## Mendacious Journalism

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In the New York Evening Post of Friday, August 26, there appeared in an editorial article the following statements:

"I will make the corporations come to time," shouted Roosevelt to the mob. But did he not really mean that he would make them come down with the cash to elect him, as he did before? For a man with Mr. Roosevelt's proved record it is simply disgusting humbug for him to rant about the corporations upon whose treasurers he fawned when he was president and wanted their money for his campaign. Does he think that nobody has a memory which goes back to the life insurance investigations, and that everybody has forgotten the \$50,000 taken from widows and orphans and added to Theodore Roosevelt's political corruption fund? Did he not take a big check from the Beef trust, and glad to get it? And now he is going to make the corporations come to time! One can have respect for a sincere radical, for an honest fanatic, for an agitator or leveler who believes that he is doing God's will; but it is hard to be patient with a man who talks big but acts mean, whose eye is always to the main chance politically, and who lets no friendship, no generosity, no principle, no moral scruple stand for a moment between himself and the goal upon which he has set his overmastering ambition.

"This champion of purity, this roarer for political virtue, is the man who was for years, when in political life, hand in glove with the worst political corruptionists of his day; who toaded to Platt, who praised Quay, who paid court to Hanna; under him as president Aldrich rose to the height of his power, always on good terms with Roosevelt; it was Roosevelt who, in 1906, wrote an open letter urging the re-election of Speaker Cannon, against whom mutterings had then begun to rise. It was Roosevelt who asked Harriman to come to the White House secretly, who took his money to buy votes in New York, and who afterwards wrote to 'My Dear Sherman'—yes, the same Sherman—reviling the capitalist to whom he had previously written saying: 'You and I are practical men.'"

The Evening Post is not in itself sufficiently important to warrant an answer, but as representing a class with whose hostility it is necessary to reckon in any genuine movement for decent government, it is worth while to speak of it. There are plenty of wealthy people in this country, and of intellectual hangers-on of wealthy people, who are delighted to engage in any movement for reform which does not touch the wickedness of certain great corporations and of certain men of great wealth. People of this class will be in favor of any aesthetic movement; they will favor any movement against the grafting politician, against the grafting labor leader, or any man of that stamp; but they cannot be trusted the minute that the reform assumes sufficient dimensions to jeopardize so much of the established order of things as gives an unfair and improper advantage to the great corporation, and to those directly and indirectly responsive to its wishes and dependent upon it. The Evening Post and papers of the same kind, and the people whose views they represent, would favor attacking a gang of small bosses who wish to control the Republican party; but they would, as the Evening Post has shown, far rather see these small bosses win than see a movement triumph which aims not merely at the overthrow of the small political boss, but at depriving the corporation of its improper influence over politics, depriving the man of wealth of any advantage beyond that which belongs to him as a simple American citizen. They would be against corporations only after such corporations had been caught in the crudest kind of criminality.

I have never for one moment counted upon the support of the Evening Post or of those whom it represents in the effort for cleanliness and decency within the Republican party, because the Evening Post would support such a movement only on condition that it was not part of a larger movement for the betterment of social conditions. But this is not all. In the struggle for honest politics there is no more a place for a liar than there is for the thief, and in a movement designed to put an end to the dominion of the thief but little good can be derived from the assistance of the liar. Of course objection will be made to my use of this language. My answer is that I am using it merely scientifically and descriptively, and because no other terms express the facts with the necessary precision. In the article in which the Evening Post comes

to the defense of those in present control of the Republican party in New York state, whom it has affected to oppose in the past, the Evening Post through whatever editor personally wrote the article, practised every known form of mendacity.

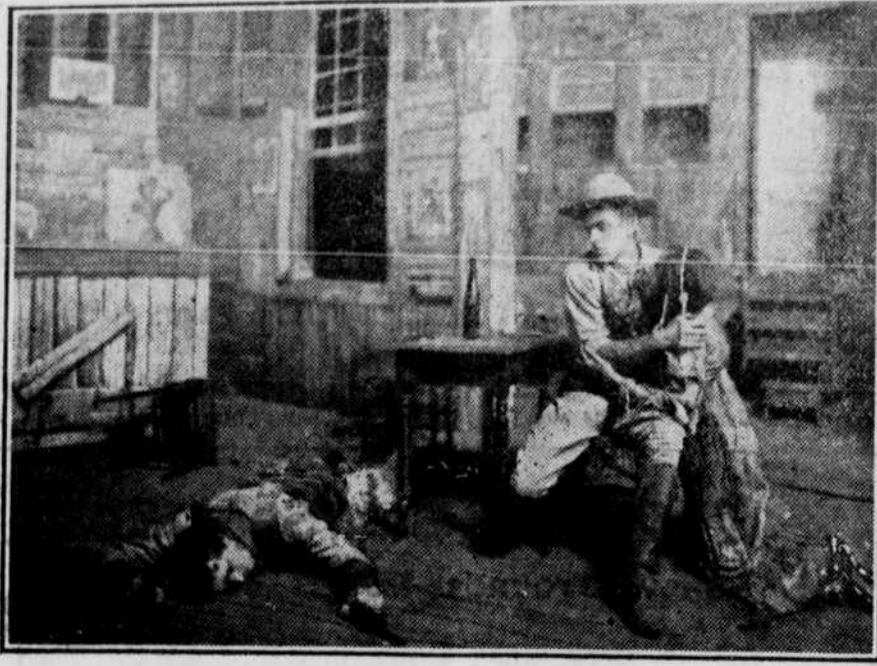
Probably the Evening Post regards the decalogue as outworn; but if it will turn to it and read the eighth and ninth commandments, it will see that bearing false witness is condemned as strongly as theft itself. To take but one instance out of the many in this article, the Evening Post says: "It was Roosevelt who asked Harriman to come to the White House secretly, who took his money to buy votes in New York, and who afterwards wrote to 'My Dear Sherman'—yes, the same Sherman—reviling the capitalist to whom he had previously written, saying: 'You and I are practical men.'" Not only is every important statement in this sentence false, but the writer who wrote it knew it was false. As far as I was concerned, every man visited the White House openly, and Mr. Harriman among the others. I took no money from Mr. Harriman secretly or openly to buy votes or for any other purpose. Whoever wrote the article in the Evening Post in question knew that this was the foulest and basest lie when he wrote the sentence, for he quotes the same letter in which I had written to Mr. Harriman as follows: "What I have to say to you can be said to you as well after election as before, but I would like to see you some time before I write my message." I am quoting without the letter before me, but the quotation is substantially, if not verbally, accurate. That statement in this letter to Harriman is of course on its face absolutely incompatible with any thought that I was asking him for campaign funds, for it is a course out of the question that I could tell him equally well what I had to say after election if it referred in any possible way to getting money before election. This is so clear that any pretense of misunderstanding is proof positive of the basest dishonesty in whoever wrote the article in question. As a matter of fact, when Mr. Harriman called it was to complain that the national committee would not turn over for the use of the state campaign funds to run that campaign, and to ask me to tell Cortelyou to give him aid for the state campaign. Mr. Cortelyou is familiar with the facts. In other words, the statement of the Evening Post is not only false and malicious, is not only in direct contradiction of the facts, but is such that it could only have been made by a man who, knowing the facts, deliberately intended to pervert them. Such an act stands on a level of infamy with the worst act ever performed by a corrupt member of the legislature or city official, and stamps the writer with the same moral brand that stamps the bribe-taker.

I have seen only a telegraphic abstract of the article, apparently containing quotations from it. Practically every statement made in these quotations is a falsehood. To but one more shall I allude. The article speaks of my having attacked corporations, and, referring directly to my Ohio speeches, of my having "sought to inflame the mob and make mischief." In those speeches the prime stand I took was against mob violence as shown by the labor people who are engaged in controversy with a corporation. My statement was in effect that the first duty of the state and the first duty of the officials was to put down disorder and to put down mob violence, and that after such action had been taken, then it was the duty of officials to investigate the corporation, and if it had done wrong to make it pay the penalty of its wrongs and to provide against the wrongdoing in the future. It is but another instance of the peculiar baseness, the peculiar moral obliquity, of the Evening Post that it should pervert the truth in so shameless a fashion.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.  
Cheyenne, Wyo., August 27, 1910.

The Only Way.  
"Why did he leave all his money to the black sheep of the family?"  
"He said the other children were too good to go to jail."  
"Well?"  
"And he wanted to fix it so the black sheep would be too rich."

Pa's Idea of It.  
Little Willie—Say, pa, what is pride?  
Pa—Pride, my son, is walking with a gold-headed cane when you are not lame.



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### TEMPERANCE NOTES

#### DRUG HABIT IS SPREADING

Vice on Increase in England—Ingredients Vary From Chloral to Alcohol.

English society is becoming seriously exercised about the habit of taking drugs, which appears to be spreading more rapidly than ever, judging from some of the correspondence which is appearing on the subject. What was at one time the vice of the few is declared now to be the practise of many—worried business men, professional men, "cursed with brain tag," jaded society women and all the other victims of the killing rush of modern life.

A case is narrated in M. A. P. of a hospital nurse who recently applied for relief at an inebriates' home, confessing that she had not been really sober—that is to say, more or less under the influence of stimulants—for six years. A spell of unusually heavy work had driven her to cocaine. Her holiday, which ought to have followed immediately, had to be postponed for some reason connected with the hospital work, and she continued taking cocaine until when relief came at last she found herself unable to give up her daily allowance of the drug. Sometimes she took brandy to relieve her craving for the drug, but always she returned. As in every other case, the gradual sapping away of the will power weakened her efforts to break the habit, and in the end her friends had to take the most drastic measures to force her into an inebriates' home. Here the habit was successfully broken after an agonizing painful "cure."

One woman who led a very busy social life used to take regularly a mixture of chloral, sal-volatile, brandy and soda, while another dosed herself with a mixture of sal-volatile and red lavender.

Another extraordinary case was heard of recently. Three specialists had been called in to examine a woman, and though all three agreed that she was suffering from overstimulation they were utterly unable to discover the cause of her symptoms. The mystery was not solved until some

one happened to mention that the woman kept a bottle of sulphate of quinine in her boudoir. She then confessed that she was simply suffering from excessive doses of quinine.

The stage, literature and art each contribute a large number to the victims of the drug and alcohol habits. Recently a once famous artist was found sleeping on the embankment, having fallen through every stage of depravity from occasional indulgence in morphia to sheer mania for alcohol.

Many men and women connected with the stage have fallen victims to the craving for stimulants, always with disastrous results to their professional reputations. One actress, for whom the critics had prophesied a brilliant career, commenced taking morphia during a nervous crisis. She was delighted with the immediate benefit she derived from the drug, and used it again and again. Before she or any one else had realized what was happening, the unfortunate woman had become a morphia-maniac. She not only made no progress in her art, but her acting was deteriorating rapidly. Before the end came it had become impossible for her to obtain an engagement. No manager could depend on her coming to the theater, and when she did put in an appearance it was only charitable to describe her acting as erratic. She became so reckless in her craving for stimulants that she drank can de Cologne, Florida water or anything else of an alcoholic nature. In this case, at any rate, death came as a merciful release.

#### Alcohol Same as Work.

When you don't want to work, but you want to look as if you had worked, feel as if you had done a hard day's work and be in the same condition as though you had done a day's work, take a couple of drinks of whisky. Medical science has established to its own satisfaction the fact that alcohol has the same effect on the human body as a day's work.

Dr. William J. Wick, who lectured at Chicago recently on "The Action of Alcohol on the Different Organs of the Body, From a Scientific Standpoint," is the authority for this statement. Dr. Wick declared that experiments in two men, one of whom had had a few drinks and the other of whom had worked all day, had the same results.

"Alcohol tires the nerves and muscles," said Dr. Wick. "One glass of beer shows a marked effect on the nervous centers and gives a tendency to hasty and incoherent movements."

Get this advertisement out as a reminder; it will not appear again.

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Which is the best piano piece for displaying the tone of a Piano?

To the first person naming the piece which a disinterested committee of well known Chicago musical authorities shall decide is perhaps the best for displaying the tone of a piano we will pay \$50.00 in gold

### Conditions

The piece suggested must be published and on the market. Only one piece may be nominated.

In addition to said nomination give the name and address of a family who may soon be ready for a piano and who might possibly be interested in receiving a catalog of Lyon & Healy Pianos.

Every contestant complying with these conditions will be mailed a copy of "A Garden Matinee"—a beautiful composition by Rudolph Friml, the well known writer. Title page in colors; regular 50 cent edition.

All letters will be numbered as received and this contest will close Oct. 1, 1910.

Send your nomination today you have an absolutely fair chance to win the cash prize. It is almost certain that you know the piece that will be selected, as the best pieces for showing off the tone of a piano, are the most popular. Send us the name of your favorite today. Address

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