

general course of existence has worn its tracks, which are followed without reference to opinions; the special turns are brought about by causes which act alike on all. There are certain bits or bodies of knowledge and opinion, of which these members generally partake; their schooling, their Revolutionary history, their memories of the Great War, their local traditions or experiences, their special institutions, their principal newspapers, their leading men, their relation with the time and its events. These, bearing on their state of thought, give certain directions to it, as the stream does to the mosses floating in its course, which are not controlled by other mosses, individual or collective.

It is certainly not maintained, that men are never influenced by the opinions of other men, especially in mass. We have the perfect ideal of public opinion, as it seems to be usually conceived, in the phenomenon of the Mob. There a man, who had been thinking nothing in particular about a certain matter, falling in with a number of men who are thinking actively about it in a certain way, at once adopts their thinking and their acting. Other collections of people, in proportion as they approach the character of the mob, exhibit the like effect of a public opinion. The political gathering, the religious meeting other than in regular routine, the wave of interest or excitement rising from any new occurrence, anything that affects the many of a given locality with a kindred emotion,—in the ratio of that emotion to the knowledge and reflection accompanying, will exert such a force. The nature and the value of this influence may be indicated by the fact that we instinctively honor a man as he resists it. The man who stands before a hostile mob unquailing, who preserves his independence of thought and action under conscience and reason, church or party, or any common cry to the contrary notwithstanding, is the man we respect. Curiously, the form in which it now acts with the most permanent intensity, that of political partisanship, divides each community on an average into two authorities, with mandates directly opposite. Our best approval is reserved for him who does not accept either of them too implicitly.

How are we actually guided, in our proceeding through the world? We rise in the morning; then we dress. "Triumphant proof of the power of public opinion," we may hear: that we dress at all, when it might be more agreeable of a hot day to go without, and then that we dress as we do, which is largely determined by custom, a form of the same. Yet if we look for the actual motor, we would commonly find no trace of such opinion, but only the road or stream of habit, come from the past much more than the present, and

from no origin of opinion, but of use and convenience. Habit indeed is dress, and custom costume. No doubt if a man were to go forth without clothing he would soon encounter a constraint of general disapprobation; as he would if he went forth with a pail of dirt and cast it upon every one he met; but it is not that consciousness in the first place which hinders either. No doubt likewise there is a sway of fashion in the matter, as apart from extremes and fantasies, there should be, taking care of the whole visible man from the skin outwards better than he could by his individual decision of each point, and leaving him the freer to his own proper life. He then takes his meal; which in many of its particulars also follows custom, but not in its main causation. He goes to his occupation; this too is appointed for him, by a compromise between his own election and the whole complex of the world around him; in which opinion has very little positive share, though it sometimes acts as a preventive. He cultivates his various side-interests, home-interests, aims of inward aspiration; which of them is determined by the collective opinion of his neighbors? Where does such an opinion come in, among the factors of his life? Where, in fact, does it exist? The public consists entirely of individuals; it is difficult to add their opinions. Personal opinion and its influence, is quite another matter; one traveller may powerfully lead another; the crowd can only jostle him. In the lighter things of life, society of the idler kind and the like, of course there is more reference to such a conception of a general opinion; as we get to the more serious things, less and less.

"What a fearful power do these common people wield," says the disciple to imprisoned Socrates, awaiting his doom at the mouth of popular clamor. "I would they did," answers the saint of sages, "so they might at least once in a while exert it for good. But now I see little that they can do, either for good or evil."

We find that there are truly certain spheres of aggregate impression, more or less predominantly impulsive and blind, to which men are subjected, rather inversely to their manhood; that where such impression governs a man's actions, the control is somewhat illegitimate; that when we search it as a source of power, or factor of our own existence, it is apt to vanish, softly and suddenly, from our sight; for the Snark is a Boojum, we see.

DEVELOPMENT OF KANSAS WATER RESOURCES.

A new light is thrown on Kansas as a water power state by a recent report of the U. S. Geological Survey, which gives a number of interesting figures regarding the use and value of

the Kansas streams for water power and supply. The Geological survey has for several years been conducting measurements of flow on these rivers, and has secured information regarding their water supply which will be of value to engineers and manufacturers. The measurements also show the wide extremes of flow common to streams of this section of the country between the summer and winter months, and indicate the proportion of time in which auxiliary steam power must be used.

Gaging stations are maintained on the Arkansas in a number of places, the Verdigris, the Neosho, Republican, Solomon, Saline, Smoky Hill, Blue and Kansas rivers, where daily observations are made.

Besides its study of the rivers of the state, the Geological Survey is making a thorough investigation into the possibility of securing an underground water supply which can be reached by wells, and which if discovered will be of the greatest value, especially on the high plains in the western part of the state. It is doubtful if any state has a richer soil or land which can be more readily cultivated than Kansas, and with an abundance of water for crops and stock, settlement and development will be rapid in the western section which, on account of its present lack of water, cannot be fully utilized.

The value of windmills as a means of increasing the water supply of the state, by making use of the prevalent strong and steady winds, has also attracted the attention of the Survey and an interesting report on their varieties and uses has been issued.

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STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE Nebraska City National Bank,

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB.,

at the close of business, December 10, 1901.

RESOURCES.

Loans.....	\$334,629.04
Overdrafts.....	57.14
U. S Bonds and premium.....	103,000.00
Other bonds and securities.....	16,934.81
Bank and other real estate.....	11,240.00
Cash, Sight Exchange and Due from Treas. U. S.....	126,109.45
Total.....	\$591,970.24

LIABILITIES.

Capital.....	\$100,000.00
Surplus and profits.....	15,700.00
Circulation.....	100,000.00
Deposits.....	376,270.15
Total.....	\$591,970.24

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

W. L. WILSON, Pres. ROBT. LORTON, V. Pres.
H. D. WILSON, Cashier.
ROBT. PAYNE. A. P. STAFFORD.