

misery must be relieved in order that their morals may be cultivated. Here is a demand for just such men as the worthy father, men who feel the call to duty of humanity. Already many organizations have been formed for systematic charity. No rigid rules hinder their work and they offer the substantial blessing of food, shelter, education instead of a fabulous benediction of the Virgin Mary. Here the modern monk might find his monastery whose rules of honest observation and incessant labor would tax his energies to the utmost. He need search for no artificial scourgings, and among the poor, his ascetic soul might look heavenward from as hard and disagreeable a couch as ever a monastery offered. All the benefits of monastic life, without its vices, he might thus attain, to say nothing of the inestimable value his work might have for others. The spirit of the church is no longer self. Everything around this modern monk would remind him of his true duty. However, the need is great, the world is not particular how its sufferers are relieved, and if Ignatius thinks he sees in the "good old times" an institution that may benefit humanity, it is his privilege to revive it, and his efforts will be watched with curiosity, if not with interest.

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The rapidity with which Richard Harding Davis gained distinction as a novelist suggests a reflection on the quota that journalism is furnishing to the number of modern authors. Mr. Davis himself was trained in the school of the reporter, after having undergone only a little college training. His first article in a New York paper was an account of an incident that illustrates the disposition of the modern reporter. Mr. Davis was accosted by a confidence man whom he permitted to perpetuate the fraud he intended and then dexterously lured him into the custody of a police officer. Mr. Davis' genius made quite an interesting narration of the methods confidence men employ. Any number of authors now successful, were once reporters, and of this number a majority are realists. As the modern realist insists upon holding the mirror up to nature, so the modern journalist insists upon a full and accurate account of all the news.

There is no other tendency in literature that needs more the oversight of the old time critic than the tendency towards realism. And unfortunately the magazine and journal are predominant in current literature. Almost all the latest novels appeared in a magazine before they were printed in book form. It is almost impossible to subject magazine literature to the rigid criticism that, though sometimes unjust and really cruel, exercises so healthful an influence that will partially answer for the influence of the critic. The reporter, above all others, sees the real lessons of life and nature. The pathetic and romantic incidents of life must appeal to him from among the incidents of crime and vice, or the commonplace immorality that is hideous or uninteresting. And if realism there must be, if there is anything in it that is good, this is it. The real critic of the day is the editor of the journal or magazine. He is the only person who is in a position to regulate literary productions at all. There has come to be a competition among novelists, and to be successful at all, a novel must have the favor of the editor. Significant is the opinion of Richard Watson Gilder, one of the most successful: "But the fact is, both the journalist and the novelist know that neither in art nor in journalism can or should there be absolute reality; and somewhere in his own conscience, somewhere in the conscience of the community comes the command, 'Thus far shalt thou go and no farther.' It is not only the voice of conscience, but the voice of social self preservation."

Manley still has the cream of the candy trade.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The contest over the office of governor in this state is laid aside at last. The independents, although having a majority in both houses, failed in all their attempts to oust Mr. Boyd and put in Mr. Powers. They have not even succeeded in bringing the contest to a hearing. Now that the contest is dropped, the people of the state will begin to wonder just what the independents intend to do in the line of legislation. As yet they have done nothing in the way of reform legislation. Many reform measures have been talked of and even threatened by independent leaders. Radical reform bills have been introduced. The mortgage stay law, the usury law, the bill to repeal the beet-sugar bounty, and the maximum freight rate bill are specimen reform bills. Yet the independents are not all agreed on any of these measures. It seems, moreover, hardly likely that these bills will pass. Present indications point that way. Suppose then, that these bills fail to pass. What will be left on the program of the independents which they can carry out? Surely they must show by their actions in this legislature some reason and justification of their presence there. What shall it be? It cannot be in the line of economy, for the present number of employees of the legislature is in excess of the number employed by past legislatures. Furthermore, a curtailing of needed appropriations is false economy. It would seem therefore, that the only advantage the presence of the independents in the legislature will bring, will be the prevention of pernicious legislation in favor of monopolists and capitalists. No one may rightfully say that this amounts to nothing. "A penny saved is a penny earned." Still the independents hardly find in this a sufficient justification for their existence. If they would live, they must do so upon the sustenance afforded by aggressive measures of their own. Negative politics do not win in this country.

The sudden death from heart disease of Secretary of the Treasury Windom, adds another to the constantly swelling list of notable men that have died within the last few years. In Secretary Windom, President Harrison has lost one of his ablest advisers in monetary matters. With the exception possibly of Senator Sherman, no man probably was as well qualified to speak upon and manage the financial matters of the nation as Secretary Windom. His specialty, as it were, in public life has been in matters of finance and money.

Secretary Windom was born in 1827 in Ohio. He was admitted to the bar in 1850. Five years later he emigrated to Minnesota. Within four years he went to congress. During his term he was actively connected with Indian affairs, serving as chairman of the committee on Indian affairs. In this capacity, and as head of a special committee to visit the western tribes, and to investigate the conduct of the commissioner of Indian affairs, he served with ability and integrity. A little later he was elected to the senate. When Garfield was elected, Mr. Windom was appointed secretary of the treasury. This office he filled until Arthur's accession to office when he retired, but only to be elected again to the senate. Benjamin Harrison chose for secretary of the treasury, Mr. Windom. The president made no mistake in his choice. The character of Secretary Windom was above reproach. His integrity has never been questioned. He was not a brilliant genius, but he was an able and an honest man. Secretary Windom was, it may be truly said, one of the representatives of the best elements in the republican party. Hence his death is on that account