

The Combat With Ignorance

With Especial Reference to the Modern Newspaper—An Address by Victor Rosewater, Delivered at the Charter Day Exercises at the University of Nebraska, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1910.

NEED hardly fortify the declaration that a world-wide combat with ignorance is constantly waged upon us and that the progress of society is marked by the steadily advancing outposts of knowledge and truth. Nor need I bring proof to bear me out when I say that in this great combat many forces are actively enlisted to dispel ignorance, to correct error, and to recover and preserve the unknown realms. Foremost among those forces are the great educational phalanxes made up of our schools, colleges and universities, closely supported by the huge institutions, whose capstone is the modern newspaper; devoted to printing and publishing and disseminating information, that with respect to the other combatants against ignorance, nor any disparagement of the excellent work which each is doing, if I seek to direct your attention for the moment to a few of the more general aspects of this forward movement of civilization with particular emphasis on the newspaper, had to be taken before the mighty battles of our modern era could be assembled and brought into action.

It has been often observed that what chiefly distinguishes man from all other living creatures is his capacity for thought and his power to give expression to his thoughts. Through this incalculable advantage man has been able gradually to assert his superiority over other animals, and to his innate faculty of thought and acquired faculty of communicating thought by speech and writing and printing may be ascribed the marvelous gains that he has scored in the endless combat with ignorance.

In spite of the erudition of our most learned explorers after truth, just when, where, and how the beginnings of human speech occurred, is, and will always be, a very nature, a subject of purely speculative opinion. In the eyes of these erudite contemporaneous means of recording these beginnings and handing them down to posterity. The biblical narrative that adult man was divinely created and set in the Garden of Eden with all of his faculties fully developed, including the possession of language, was later confused at the Tower of Babel, and did not seem to satisfy iconoclastic scientists who have persisted in advancing other theories as more rational. One hypothesis makes primitive man give utterance by various exclamations to his feelings of pain, joy, or hunger, and that these interjections were the basis of the first oral communication. Another portrays our un-uncertain as imitating the noises of nature like the whistling of the wind, the chirping of the bird, the baying of the beast. Still others have sought to study the earliest sounds emitted by infants as likely to reflect the expressions of their emotions and needs. Later philosophers, while conceding something to the "interjection" theory and to the "imitation" theory of speech, are disposed to believe that the power of thought developed first and preceded a groping for means of expression and communication; that language and thought were developed in parallel, and that the development of language was a direct result of the development of thought.

Let us dwell briefly on the tremendous significance to the future of civilization which the invention of the printing process and its successful establishment as a craft field within it. We know almost nothing of the life or activities of the human race up to the time of recorded written language, and nothing of human thoughts and aspirations beyond what may be inferred from the purely physical environment and gleaned from meager remnants of archaic handiwork. What we know of the life and activities of the human race up to the time of recorded written language, and nothing of human thoughts and aspirations beyond what may be inferred from the purely physical environment and gleaned from meager remnants of archaic handiwork.

Between the birth of human reason and the invention of writing a long period of time passed. It is because of this that the progress of mankind has been lost to those to whom printing has been available, and the ready accessibility of the results previously achieved has enabled each new expedition against ignorance to start from the vantage point won by the last skirmish in the combat. It is because of the invention of printing as much, if not more, than any other achievement that a present-day philosopher could truthfully say:

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English alphabet has twenty-six; the Italian only twenty; the Russian forty-one; the Sanskrit fifty; the Chinese employ 214 elementary characters. We also use other symbols besides the letters—including the punctuation marks, numerals and analogous typographical characters, we have in our own English language nearly 100.

Have you ever stopped to ponder how few letters the alphabet has? It is hard to believe that the Chinese employ 214 elementary characters. We also use other symbols besides the letters—including the punctuation marks, numerals and analogous typographical characters, we have in our own English language nearly 100.

It is no wonder, then, that for more than 2,000 years after the perfection of written language its possession was limited to the very few; that the church and the learned alone had the right to read, and that even by this laborious method must not be gained, but that we would have built up our present institutions on a foundation of parchment and stylus is unthinkable; widespread popular intelligence, the consequence of our almost universal literacy, that enables one and all to catch up with and keep abreast of the current world events would be practically impossible.

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ward movement is first and which is second, either in point of importance or in point of time. The first of these is, indeed, the mother of inventions—they are all of essential importance and usually in simultaneous germination, yet could not be forthcoming until the conditions were ripe for them. I need only advert to a few of these steps that have helped us onward and upward.

The materials by means of which our language has been put into more or less permanent form were originally so costly as to preclude resort to them for any but extraordinary occasions. The inscriptions on the monuments, the graven tablets of stone and of bronze, the baked bricks of the Assyrians, the papyrus scrolls, the most part to the laws proclaimed by the Gods and the lineage and doings of the gods and potentates they had appointed to rule for them over man. Philosophy, science and history managed to secure representation more frequently when the volume of parchment and vellum were opened up to receive their records, yet to perform the true mission the new art of printing must, therefore, put its impression on some cheaper and more easily obtained substitute.

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ment of web press printing in 1811 and its subsequent improvement removed the limit. By feeding the press from a continuous roll of galley passing over a set of cylinders fitted with curved stereotyped plates and under another similar set of cylinders, both sides are printed simultaneously and the paper is then mechanically cut, pasted, folded, counted and delivered in completed condition. These presses driven by direct connected electric motors, are now built on the unit system, so that they may be expanded, just as may be a unit system bookcase, and thus made to eat up one, two, three, six or ten great rolls of raw paper at the same time, converting them into papers of four, six, eight, ten, twelve pages each, and so on, or a combination of those numbers, in one or several colors, and apparently this process could be multiplied almost indefinitely.

The production of the modern newspaper is also largely dependent on, and the perfection of our means of rapid communication and transportation. The gathering of the news today taxes all known devices of communication and the distribution of the printed newspaper calls for transportation. The press of the newspaper is a local chronicle of petty happenings and neighborhood gossip into the contemporaneous mirror of world events could proceed no faster than the evolution of these auxiliary agencies. I need hardly do more than refer to the notable achievements in this field which make up a long list including Fulton's steamboat, Stephenson's locomotive, Morse's telegraph, Field's Atlantic cable, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, Edison's phonograph, Marconi's wireless, the automobile and the airship.

Other indispensable requirements for the modern newspaper have been supplied by the free public schools, endowing every willing child with the priceless boon of literacy and the inauguration of universal manhood suffrage, instilling a general desire for information and instruction on the needs of self-government. It goes without saying that the relative intelligence of the people of a community affects the possibilities of newspaper publication.

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aware of it, yet countless millions have been informed of the penetration of man's mind. It was the first time that Columbus discovered America, he himself did not live to realize it, and it took a century for his achievement to become of common knowledge or to find its place in the geographies. In our day, the success of a sortie to the pole is made known all over the world to every one who cares to read a newspaper. The announcement of the announcement of the returned explorer. And what were the by-products of ignorance thus exploded? The primitive idea was that the earth was a flat area of solid ground surrounded by water and supporting the heavens. According to a medieval theory, the earth consisted of three zones, two of which were habitable, but separated by an impassable zone of fire and bordered on north and south with impassable zones of ice. The rounding of the South African cape destroyed the zone of fire, but left the two poles encased in impassable ice. The discovery of the North Pole was probably the foundation for the later theory of concentric spheres, picturing an inner surface of the earth approachable through the poles and actually led to a petition to our American congress in 1832 for an appropriation to fit out an expedition to prove the truth of this prolific notion. All these errors of ignorance have been buried past recollection by the actual physical human presence at the pole and the practically universal dissemination of the news of the event. The butcher and the baker and the candlestick maker may doubt the right and wrong of rival claimants with almost perfect assurance as the college professor, because the newspaper accounts have lifted the pall of darkness in which the subject was previously enshrouded.

The progress recently made in aerial navigation permits of a very similar obnoxious lesson. The newspapers have chronicled far and wide the measure of success attained by dirigibles and by aeroplanes. When the Hudson-Fulton celebration was impending, diligent search of old files for contemporaneous descriptions of the Fulton exploit disclosed the fact that, although the newspapers were then being published in New York, only one of them even mentioned the steamboat trial, and that devoted to it but a few lines. This notice one of the defects of the newspaper historian—lack of perspective—but it also emphasizes by contrast the great advance made in the modern newspaper.

The modern newspaper has its faults, none would deny. It is charged with grasping at the sensational and exceptional with too much avidity. The accusation is made that it sometimes invades personal privacy and dilates on divorce scandals, yet one of our own learned professors insists that the growing number of divorces is ascribable to emancipation from ignorance, and is therefore a sign of social progress, rather than a social ailment. We deplore that some newspapers are too often tempted to go to extremes in everything to exaggerate the less important at the expense of the more important. But the newspaper is itself constantly tested in the fiery furnace of a discriminating public opinion, a public opinion becoming all the time better educated and more exacting. As the level of popular intelligence is raised by the combined efforts of the public school and university, the standards of all these agencies are bound to be elevated along with it. Ignorance alone, like a dismal swamp, furnishes the breeding places of noxious creatures, and each time ignorance is put to rout, the power for evil of ignorance is weakened.

Truth crushed to earth shall rise again: The seed of his word is never sown; But Error, wounded, writes in pain, And dies among his worshippers.

CROWNED KING OF FAKERS

Castiglione Duped the Whole World in His Day and Wound Up in Jail.

"A liar of the first magnitude. Throughout in all the provinces of Spain: Who may call the king of liars!" Thus wrote grim old Thomas Carlyle. And the victim on whom he showered such abuse was Count Alessandro di Castiglione, master of 1,000 brilliant fakes. Even the man's high-sounding name was a fake. He was really Giuseppe Balsani, a Sicilian who now lives in no way entitled to call himself "Count."

Castiglione, as a mere child, was expelled from the local charity school for some abominable bit of mischief. Next he went into a Palermo monastery, where he found work in the monk's apothecary shop. There he showed a positive genius for medicine, and soon knew the anatomy and chemistry and the use of drugs than did any one else in the whole brotherhood. Incidentally he learned, too, a few great truths that always proved valuable to doctors and shrewd men alike. He found out that many people trust physicians as they trust no one else. He found out that a large percentage of the public are easily fooled by the claims of a clever enough to attract them. On these two human fallacies he laid his future career of gigantic swindling.

\$9,060 Piano Contest

First Prize—\$300 Kimball Piano Second Prize—\$125 Piano Discount Third Prize—\$110 Piano Discount

In addition to the above we will also distribute among the lucky contestants in our great square forming contest, piano discounts to the amount of \$8,525.00.

IT COSTS NOTHING TO ENTER CONTEST

We are making this generous distribution of prizes to advertise our business; to advertise the pianos we handle, and to give it possible for a large number of families to secure a high grade instrument at a legitimate sale.

JUDGES OF CONTEST.

In this contest we place the matter in the hands of disinterested parties, and the awarding of prizes rests entirely with them. We have selected as judges, the following well known citizens of Omaha: FRED PAFFENRATH, I. KAHN and S. SWANSON.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36

How many squares, large and small, can you form with the 36 squares in the above diagram? — EXAMPLE —

Nos. 1, 2, 7, 8 make one square 1
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 make one square 1

Total 2 squares, etc.

— RULES —

Small squares used to form larger ones must all join.
The different squares you find may be shown in any way you see fit.
It is not permissible to alter size of small squares.
The same combination of small squares can be used but once.
The squares you form may be shown either with figures or diagrams.

— LARGE SQUARE —
Large square must be three inches square and small squares one-half inch.

You may use any kind of paper.

— CONDITIONS —

Any one may submit one answer. No one connected with this firm, or any one interested in the piano business in any way will be eligible to compete. Persons already owning upright pianos will be barred from first prize. In the event of a tie, no money or originality will be considered. You must write your name and address plainly on the back of your answer, also state whether or not you have an upright or square piano. State number of squares.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES

Besides the three grand prizes, \$8,525.00 in piano discounts will be given away as follows: Next five best answers, \$100 discounts. Next ten best answers, \$80 discounts. Next twenty-five best answers, \$75 discounts. Next thirty best answers, \$70 discounts. Next fifty best answers, \$65 discounts. To all contestants who do not succeed in winning one of the above awards we will present free a handsome tri-colored print mounted on white mat paper.

CONTEST CLOSES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1910
MAIL OR BRING YOUR ANSWERS TO,

A. HOSPE CO.

1513-15 Douglas Street, Omaha, Neb.

Engraved Stationery
Wedding Invitations, Announcements, Visiting Cards

All correct forms in current social usage engraved in the best manner and punctually delivered when promised.

Embossed Monogram Stationery
and other work executed at prices lower than usually prevail elsewhere.

A. I. ROOT, INCORPORATED
1210-1212 Howard St. Phone D. 1904

demned him to life imprisonment as an enemy to the Christian religion. He died in his cell August 28, 1796, having for years duped the whole world.—New York World.

Will You Risk It?

Here the lecturer threw upon the screen the portrait of a man well known in the financial world.

"This," he said, "is one of the great captains of finance. I do not need to mention his name. His face is familiar to all of you. Look at his corrugated brow, the furrows in his cheeks, the pouches under his eyes, the deep lines about his mouth. That face, my friends, bears the unmistakable and ineffaceable stamp of care. Anxiety has marked it indelibly. It shows the traces of sleepless nights, weary days and bitterly fought campaigns, with millions of dollars at stake. Success brings to such a man no happiness. Look at him! How many of you, my friends, would change places with him? How many of you would be willing to take his burden of responsibility that goes with it?"

His hearers rose on a mass.

"I would," they shouted in unison.—Chicago Tribune.

The Father of Him.

Census Taker—Give the ages of your five children.

Father—All right; Mary will be 13 in September—13 yes; that must be right; and John is—John—ahem—he's going on 11. I mention then, I mean, that I must have some one to remember how old he is—ah—Fred is—Fred is—ah—ah—see—and Archie—Archie—ah—ah—can't you come along then?—Woman's Home Companion.

KIDNEY AND BLADDER MISERY GOES AND YOUR LAME BACK FEELS FINE

Several doses will regulate your out-of-order Kidneys, making Backache vanish.

Hundreds of folks here are needlessly miserable and worried because of out-of-order kidneys, backache or bladder trouble. If you will take several doses of Pape's Diuretic all misery from a lame back, rheumatism, painful attacks, inflamed or swollen eyelids, nervous headaches, irritability, dizziness, worn-out, sick feeling and other symptoms of overworked or deranged kidneys will vanish.

Uncontrollable, smarting, frequent urination (especially at night) and all bladder misery ends.

This unusual preparation goes at once to the disordered kidneys, bladder and urinary system, and distributes its healing, cleansing and vitalizing influence directly upon the organs and glands affected, and completes the cure before you realize it.

The moment you suspect any kidney or urinary disorder, or feel rheumatism coming, begin taking this harmless medicine with the knowledge that there is no other remedy at any price, made anywhere else in the world, which will effect so thorough and prompt a cure as a fifty-cent treatment of Pape's Diuretic, which any drug-gist can supply.

Your physician, pharmacist, banker or any mercantile agency will tell you the Pape, Thompson & Pape, of Cincinnati, is a large and responsible medicine concern, thoroughly worthy of your confidence.

Only curative results can come from taking Pape's Diuretic, and a few days' treatment means clean, active, healthy kidneys, bladder and urinary organs—and you feel fine.

Accept only Pape's Diuretic—fifty-cent treatment—from any drug store—anywhere in the world.

Remedies are Needed

Were we perfect, which we are not, medicines would not often be needed. But since our systems have become weakened, impaired and broken down by the indigestions which have gone on from the early ages, through countless generations, remedies are needed to aid Nature in correcting our inherited and otherwise acquired weaknesses. To reach the seat of stomach weakness and consequent digestive troubles, there is nothing so good as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, a glyceric compound, extracted from native medicinal roots—sold for forty years with great satisfaction to all users. For Weak Stomach, Bilelessness, Liver Complaint, Pain in the Stomach after eating, Heartburn, Bad Breath, Belching of food, Chronic Diarrhea and other Intestinal Derangements, the "Discovery" is a time-proven and most efficient remedy.

The genuine has on its outside wrapper the Signature

You can't afford to accept a secret nostrum as a substitute for this non-alcoholic, medicine or known composition, not even though the urgent dealer may thereby make it a little bigger profit.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. Sugar-coated, tiny granules, easy to take as candy.

