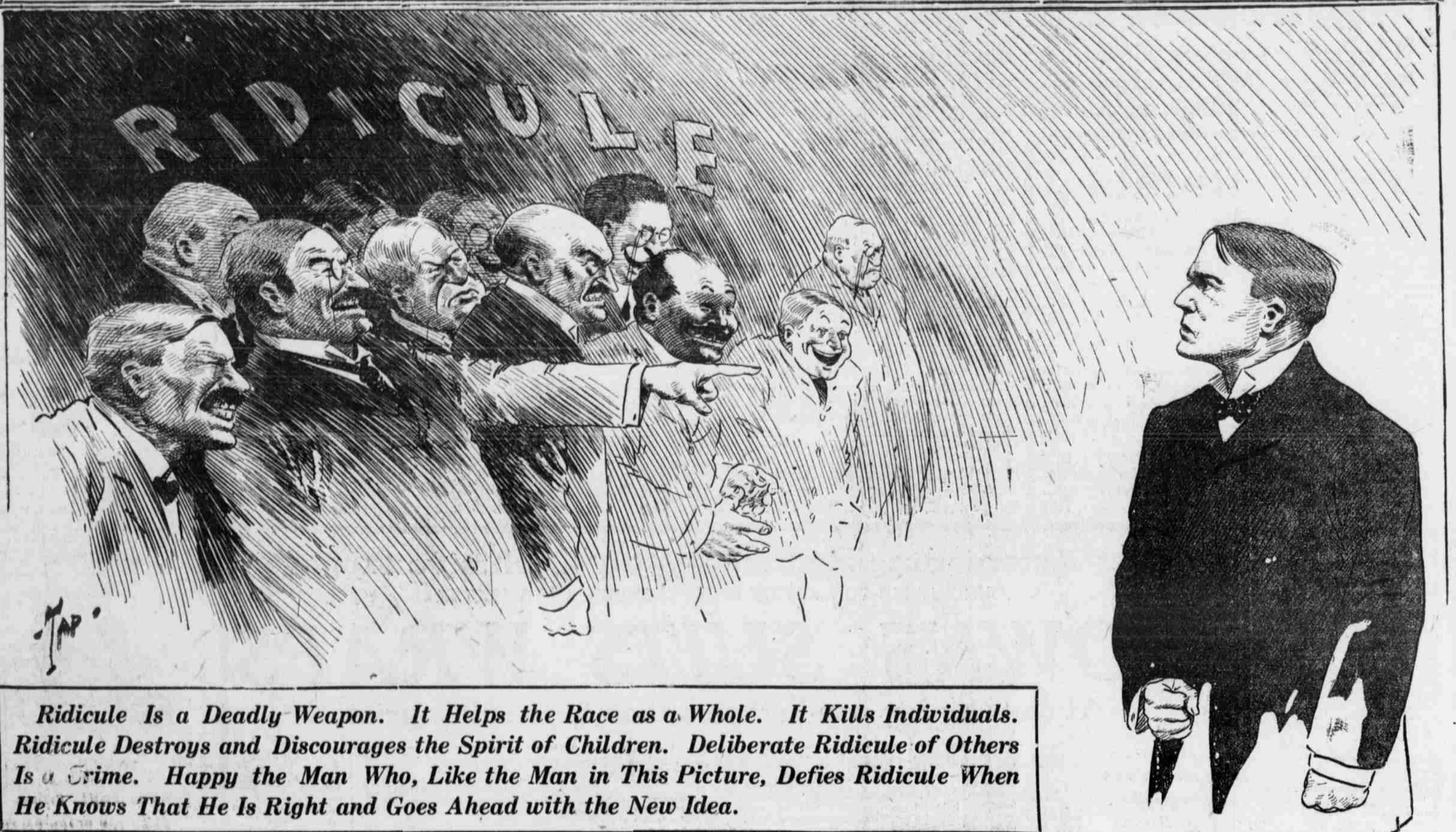


# CAN YOU STAND RIDICULE?



**Ridicule Is a Deadly Weapon. It Helps the Race as a Whole. It Kills Individuals. Ridicule Destroys and Discourages the Spirit of Children. Deliberate Ridicule of Others Is a Crime. Happy the Man Who, Like the Man in This Picture, Defies Ridicule When He Knows That He Is Right and Goes Ahead with the New Idea.**

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**L**ET us talk to-day about ridicule, its power, the good and the harm that it does.

Many a man who can stand cruel punishment, suffering without flinching, CANNOT ENDURE THE LAUGHTER, THE SCORN, THE RIDICULE OF OTHERS.

Many a man leads a life foreign to his nature because he fears ridicule.

Millions of women dress extravagantly, pinch their feet, squeeze their waists, impoverish their husbands, because they fear ridicule. They dare not be out of the style.

Ridicule has killed men. Keats, the young poet, of wonderful promise, died almost in his boyhood—killed by harsh criticism and ridicule.

Ridicule has helped civilization immensely, for to establish the fact that a thing is ridiculous puts it under the ban, makes it abhorrent, makes men and women dread it more than they dread actual suffering.

Ridicule has kept many a man from being a coward—when physical cowardice was a fatal thing for the general welfare.

Ridicule developed the manly qualities in men—a development that was necessary.

And ridicule developed the womanly qualities in women—also necessary.

Many a man has marched to death in defense of his country or of his family, and has been called a hero, when he was really a man so much afraid of ridicule that he would much rather die than be laughed at.

One Frenchman who had arranged to fight a duel shot himself the night before the duel. He was afraid that he would not have courage on the dueling ground and that others would laugh at him. He had the courage to kill himself. He hadn't the courage to run the risk of being laughed at.

Fathers and mothers ought to understand the power of ridicule, remember it and fear it in the education of their children.

It is well enough to teach boys and girls, gradually, to develop indifference to ridicule.

But it is wrong to expect too much of children. The fathers and mothers must remember that throughout the history of our race ridicule, "LAUGHING AT THAT WHICH IS NOT GENERALLY APPROVED," has been one of the greatest educative forces. And the race in its babyhood and the child in its childhood are influenced by ridicule more than by anything else.

It is stupid and brutally cruel to compel a little boy to wear long curls and be laughed at by the other boys. The boy that might have amounted to something in life could be utterly ruined and made into a cringing, morbid child by that piece of stupidity.

It is brutal and cruel to compel boys to wear short trousers or other garments that mark them out for ridicule among boys after a certain age.

The foolish mother or father guilty of dressing a boy in a Lord Fauntleroy costume, lace collar and velvet jacket and hair ridiculously cut, or ridiculously long, is a criminal when such a child is sent out to be ridiculed by other normal boys.

Teach your children slowly and gradually not to fear ridicule. Teach them to think for themselves, to conduct themselves as they have been taught to do regardless of bad examples and the ridicule of bad boys.

Don't expect them to stand ridicule, which it is im-

possible for them to stand, the ridicule which comes when one child is singled out and made different from the others in appearance.

Lucky the man who can be guided by the common sense of history which expresses itself sometimes in ridicule—ridiculing that which is preposterous, effeminate, vicious, unworthy.

Millions of men have been cured of chewing tobacco by ridicule—and a very useful ridicule.

Other men have been ridiculed out of idleness and aimlessness in life.

Unfortunately, many a man who might have been useful, and added to the world's knowledge, has been driven from his useful line of thought or of effort by the ridicule of others.

The man who will do the real thing in this world, which is THE NEW THING, is the man who can stand ridicule, who will not be discouraged.

Almost every inventor, without exception, if he has finally succeeded, has been compelled to endure ridicule, to listen patiently while others told him how foolish he was—and go on working in spite of it.

Every new idea is laughed at by fools—and the fools are a vast majority.

Every attempt at better living, is laughed at by those that live viciously.

Many a man who would stop drinking or some other vice is kept in his evil ways by the ridicule of men worse than himself.

The history of the human race and its progress is a history of ridicule.

They laughed at Columbus, thought him crazy, when he started on his journey which meant so much to the human race.

The assembled steel and iron makers of England, the ablest men in their profession, laughed immoderately when a man poor and diffident got up to explain a new method of making steel. They said it was stupid and preposterous, and they decided, unanimously, to strike his remarks from the record, so as "not to make the convention of iron makers ridiculous."

The man at whom they laughed was Bessemer, who revolutionized the steel business, whose invention has produced thousands of millions of dollars in steel.

One man, by the way, who happened to be there, who heard what Bessemer had to say, spoke kindly to him, took a little interest in his idea, and MADE A FORTUNE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OUT OF IT. Sometimes it pays to treat kindly the man at whom others laugh.

William H. Vanderbilt, second of the line of very rich Vanderbilts, laughed at the idea of an elevated railroad in New York, and ridiculed the suggestion. "The people are fools," said he, "but they are not fools enough to ride on stilts."

He laughed at the man who had the idea of the elevated railroad, but he did not discourage that man.

If William H. Vanderbilt had laughed less, and thought more, he might have made about one hundred millions of dollars out of the idea at which he laughed.

The Gould family refrained from laughing, bought the elevated railroad—and the hundred millions that might have belonged to the Vanderbilts went to the Goulds.

Fulton was laughed at when he started his first steamboat and, creaking and puffing, managed to send it along over the water.

The newspapers had ridiculed him. The crowds stood on the shores laughing, "to see the thing blow up." But ridicule didn't discourage Fulton. And therefore, although he was not by two thousand years the first that

ever thought of using steam in ships, HE WAS THE FIRST MAN THAT EVER MADE A STEAMSHIP GO AND SUCCEEDED COMMERCIALLY.

Even the great Napoleon, while he was planning to cross the English Channel and land his troops in England, sent word to Fulton, who called upon him, that he would give him one minute.

He had no time to listen to Fulton's idea of the steam-boat.

If Napoleon had had time to listen to Fulton, and had experimented with steam, he could have landed his troops in England, regardless of the wind—and the whole of history might have been changed.

It is a fortunate thing, probably, that Napoleon would not listen to Fulton.

If Fulton had been afraid of ridicule, easily discouraged, he would probably have stopped in his efforts when the great Napoleon told him there was nothing in the idea.

But Fulton could fight ridicule—that is why the steamship came when it did.

If you can withstand ridicule when you know that you are right, if you can teach your boys and your girls to disregard ridicule when they know that they are right, and when they have reached an age when it is reasonable to expect of them indifference to the taunts of others, you will succeed in your career as far as it is possible for you to go, and you will set your children on the right road.

A man who invented the porcelain that we all use now, who gave great industries and work for hundreds of thousands of men to the world, was laughed at as he burned up his fence and even the furniture in his house to keep hot the oven in which he was baking the porcelain. But laughter combined with dreadful poverty did not discourage him. For that reason Pallas succeeded.

The men who wanted to build the first steam rail lines were laughed at. They were told, in the first place, that if you kept the men moving inside of a car for two or three hours at such a high rate of speed as twenty miles an hour it would certainly kill them.

They were also told that it would be necessary to put high stone walls on both sides of the railroad track, as the wind from the cars would kill the neighbors.

The scientific men of England with very few exceptions united to explain how the thing was utterly impossible—and then it went through, and those gentlemen lived to ride on the steam cars at which they had laughed.

We are not all inventing steamboats, or railroads, or new methods for making porcelain. We are not all poets cruelly attacked by stupid critics.

But every single one of us could be better off, more prosperous and a better citizen if he could learn to be indifferent to ridicule.

**HOW MUCH OF YOUR MONEY DO YOU SPEND BECAUSE YOU ARE AFRAID OF BEING LAUGHED AT?**

How much could you save if you had the courage to do what you ought to do for the sake of your wife and your children, ESPECIALLY FOR THE SAKE OF THAT FUTURE WHICH WILL BE VERY GLOOMY AND COLD IF YOU HAVE NOTHING SAVED UP WHEN OLD AGE COMES?

How much do women spend on clothes because they are afraid of ridicule?

How much do men give their wives to spend stupidly because they are afraid "not to have their wife dressed as well as any man's wife?"

In every big city tens of thousands of men and wom-

en live in houses or apartments more expensive than they can afford—and they cut down on actual necessities, good books, the right kind of food for themselves and their children, perhaps. Many a so-called "kitchenette" is the foolish expedient of a family that is afraid of ridicule, that prefers a big parlor in which fools may sit to a comfortable home and decent kitchen in which proper food may be prepared.

Many a man and woman live in the city, spending what they cannot afford, because they are ashamed to live simply in the country, where they and their children would be better off.

It is not necessary or wise to deny your family ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN AFFORD.

If your wife wants to look like a first class bird of Paradise, and you can afford it, let her look like a bird of Paradise and keep her happy.

If you and she want a large, grunting automobile and you can afford it, have it by all means.

But don't let the ridicule of others, or fear of what others will say or think, persuade you to spend what you can't afford, and throw away to-day as a sacrifice to ridicule that which you will bitterly need when old age comes along, or when the children get older and need and have a right to demand help in their education.

Do not, however, mistake personal conceit, egotism, blind confidence in your own ideas for indifference to ridicule.

There is a great difference between conquering ridicule and making a goose of yourself.

The unfortunate woman who dresses like a man, cuts her hair short, wears a stiff collar, and thinks that she is indifferent to ridicule, is simply silly, and setting a bad example.

The foolish individual who wears his hair long and curly, has a flat, turned down collar, and a flowing silk tie, and ridiculous clothes, and high heels, is not indifferent to ridicule—he is simply a foolish peacock.

The ridicule of the public in general is wise ridicule. The people, as a whole, ridicule that which is bad.

The older brother usually educates his younger brother by ridicule.

Ridicule is a great educating force, and those that are ignorant are made to learn BY RIDICULE.

Learn to distinguish between the cruel ridicule which checks growth, which kills original thought, and that useful, necessary ridicule which keeps the human race more or less uniform in its methods, and enables us to go ahead as a united body instead of scattering in all directions like monkeys hopping about a cage.

Ridicule keeps the human race a solid army of progress. It is a splendid thing for the race.

But ridicule too often keeps the individual from achievement.

Learn to distinguish.

At first think for yourself, and when you have learned to think for yourself don't let the ridicule or the thoughts of others stop your thinking. The man in this picture, excellently drawn by Tad, shows one type that succeeds. It is the type that can fight ridicule.

There is a better type than that in the picture, one with less chin and more forehead, and that better type is more apt to fight successfully against ridicule.

When others know more than you do, learn from them, listen to what they have to say.

At some time in your life, however, you have got to make up your mind WHAT YOU WILL DO. You have got to reach decisions, stick to them. Then you have got to learn to be indifferent to ridicule. If you can do that, you can carry out your own line of work. And if you can't carry out YOUR OWN line of work you can't get anywhere.