



# THE COURIER

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**OBSERVATIONS.****Selfishness and Altruism.**

It is an indictment of the plan or scheme of creation, all this praise of altruism. Civilization owes the mechanical and most of its scientific discoveries to selfishness. We want to save work, it is comfortable to wear fine wools, to sit in easy chairs, it is soothing to be surrounded by soft, harmonious colors, music, fragrance, color, graceful forms are pleasing, and man is willing to work harder in the middle of the day than he and those who minister to the comfort of his home and flatter him as the bread-winner may the more enjoy the evenings and the mornings. In working for himself and his family with all his might and main, a man, with no such design, makes it easier for his neighbor to live. If he be not a parasite, every man's success is a blessing to the community he labors in, and increases the happiness and prosperity of the whole.

An occasional philanthropist who has inherited his money is miserable over the sorrows of others and yearns to distribute his inheritance by gifts, a method which nature and economics both render ineffectual.

The race is to the strong and the swift. The conditions of the race were settled before the most precocious monkey found out he was a man and could vote and pose and strut before females and intimidate them by roaring and brandishing a club. If altruism or devotion to others, would develop the race fast-

er, it is certain that each one of us would now be neglecting our own business and busybodying ourselves about the affairs of our neighbors, who in turn would be trying to make our fortunes. Such a law and regime would be very unhandy. Our own affairs are so much easier to reach and to understand and to handle than our neighbor's business. Besides the Bible recommends that we treat others as tenderly and considerately as we treat ourselves, thus recognizing the universality of selfishness and establishing it as a gauge of altruism.

**The Harvard School for Cubans.**

Not many Cuban teachers responded to Harvard's invitation to them to come and learn American pedagogy. Those that came are having a good time. Members of the W. C. T. U. and of the Woman's Century Club, met them as they disembarked in Boston, and with flowers and friendly tokens and signs made them welcome. The young ladies went to Cambridge and settled down not entirely to study but to learn and practice the customs of our country. Accustomed all their lives to the strictest espionage or chaperonage, for women in Cuba are still protected or tormented by the duenna who insists upon an antique seclusion of the female, these young girls are eager for freedom and in ignorance of the limits of American co-association, have shocked some of the Cambridge and Boston folk by going unchaperoned to restaurants with gentlemen. The Boston beaux expected that the girls would be beautiful and attractive, but they were afraid that the short summer term would be insufficient to overcome the shyness of maidens raised behind latticed windows. But the Cuban girls go rowing, riding, walking and take their ice cream sodas as willingly if not as nonchalantly as the American girl. And the former's eagerness and appreciation is very grateful to the Boston young man, who is used to very independent exigent ladies who take his offerings as a matter of course.

In answer to criticisms of their evident willingness to be without a chaperone, the Cuban girls are very docile and express a willingness to conform to the customs of the country. Conventional distinctions cannot be acquired, however, without study and the signorinas cannot be expected to know that though they may walk with an escort or go to an entertainment with him it is not *comme il faut* to dine or lunch with him at a restaurant or hotel unaccompanied by an older woman.

The Boston papers report that the women are good students, attentive, intelligent and polite. The men are much more sedate than the women who impress the serious Bostonians as being cheerful to the point of giddiness. The Catholic societies of

Boston provide for their pleasure a dance on Tuesday and Friday evenings of each week at the Hemenway gymnasium.

A Cambridge temperance society asked President Eliot to send some of the teachers to a meeting of the society in order that they might carry back to Cuba with them some of the very latest American ideas on temperance and a new repugnance for the rum fiend, but President Eliot was disappointing. He wrote the committee: "I cannot think that the Cuban teachers would take any interest in total abstinence. They have no tendency to drink to excess, and cannot understand it in others. The vice against which you contend is not practised among them. Our people have much to learn from them on that subject; but they can get nothing but a warning from us." To the zealous committee President Eliot's note was a disappointment.

It is so discouraging to find after one is thoroughly equipped for rescuing and converting foreigners, that they do not need our process. When commercial development shall have made drunkenness rare and confined the intemperate use of tobacco to men out of a job, when employers have all joined a union whose bylaws declare their rights to unclouded thinking and undiluted energies, contrary to the expectations of a number of reformers who wish to hurry on the millennium by pledges, there will still be sins to preach against and plenty of the fallen to help up out of the gutter. In the case of Cubans; inhabitants of a warm country seldom drink to excess. Their faults are those of indolence and treachery.

**Woman Suffrage in Colorado.**

Women have voted in Colorado for five years, but five years is too short a trial of any suffrage system to base any very important conclusions upon. The Colorado women this year will cast their second presidential vote and because women always belong to the conservative party, is a sound reason for believing that the woman's vote of Colorado will be for President McKinley. In off years the woman's vote has been light and the testimony of politicians that they do not count upon it or pay any campaign attention to is doubtless correct. But they will vote this year and every presidential year will mark an increase in the number of habitual women voters.

An interest in politics is one of the most vitalizing of medicines. Ennui never attacks a politician. He has too many men to see and too many interests, and candidates to remember and pitfalls to avoid. When women begin to take an interest in politics, they will have no more time to spare for the consideration of Rome or the study of Dante. Current events, chances and combinations will expel more academic thought. Then the

ward bosses will begin to think about the "woman's vote" and to lay plans to conciliate and attract it. Saloon keepers cannot be elected in that time either to the school board or the common council and in that day women school teachers will receive as much salary as men. Thirty years is a short trial, yet in that time the women in Colorado should be able to exhibit a creditable record of influence in elections. A few good citizenship leagues like that one in Chicago which publishes the records of notoriously corrupt candidates in both parties would make the "woman's vote" of Colorado a force which nominating conventions would bear in mind. Unless all the women vote it is inexpedient that a few should and the women of Colorado, interested or indifferent ought to know that they are trying an experiment for the whole United States and according as they accept their responsibilities or treat them frivolously, the question will be settled in scientific minds all over the world.

**The Consent of the Governed.**

A phrase occasionally fastens itself to the language and the people accept it as truly descriptive when it is really meaningless. Ask any school-boy if the people of this country are governed by their own consent, and he will answer affirmatively. He remembers the Declaration of Independence and is sure that we govern ourselves. Half of the people are women and this half of tax paying orderly citizens are governed without their consent. Perhaps a third of the male population is under age and cannot vote. There are the Indians, Chinese, convicts and idiots who cannot vote. It is reckoned that about a fifth of the population votes, so that it is not so spread-eagle but more accurate to say that, this government, exists by the consent of less than one fifth of the governed. Even this fraction, is lessened by the manipulation of men who make politics a trade and a livelihood, who arrange deals with candidates so that when the time comes the delegates have no choice but to vote for a bad man or a worse one.

In the case of children, parents do not ask their consent. All children, properly trained are put to bed, fed plain foods and clothed under protest. Unless force were used they would go to bed when everything amusing or interesting ceased. They would eat sugar until their stomachs fermented and their teeth were blackened. They would wear the brightest colors and play all the time. They would not study. Of their own will they would not prepare themselves for a strenuous life. But armed men and women coerce children to do all these things. They teach them either by moral suasion, influence, or a stick, according to the disposition of the governed, self-control, the satisfac-