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interesting illustrations in the article on "Valley Forge as a National Park," by E. W. Hocker in the April Magazine Number of The Outlook. (\$3 a year. The Outlook Company, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York.)

Only a brief summary of Mr. Cleveland's two recent lectures on the Venezuela Affair was given to the public,—the lectures having been especially copyrighted for appearance in the June and July numbers of The Century Magazine. Few except special students are aware of the long history of the connection of the United States with the subject. Among the interesting points brought out in the lectures, and not reported, may be mentioned Mr. Cleveland's scathing remarks on the relation of the senate to treaties formulated by the executive branch of the government. The lectures constitute Mr. Cleveland's most important contribution to history.

The Blessing of Silence.
 "The person who speaks without thinking resembles the hunter who shoots without aiming," says the noted philosopher Montesquieu.

This is essentially an age of confusion. Sitting in our offices or walking on the streets our senses are confused by a medley of discordant sounds—the continuous pounding of hoofs upon the pavements and rattling of heavy carts mingled with the clanging of street car bells, the shrieking of whistles, the clamor of newsboys and peanut vendors,—all to the accompaniment of hand organs, street bands and ever-present, long-suffering pianos. Small wonder that human beings, who are so easily influenced by outward surroundings, should be the victims of an increasing mental disquietude, a confusion of ideas which is opposed to clear and effective thinking, and which leaves the human race no further advanced in mental development than in ages past.

Not least among the enemies of thought and reason is the habit of indiscriminate chattering so common among persons of limited brain capacity. "The less men think, the more they speak," says Montesquieu at another time. Volume after volume of rag-time conversation is projected into the world to the bewilderment of the elect few who believe that language is a vehicle for expressing thought instead of an apology for the absence of it.

Not many of us can withdraw, like Carlyle, to a sound-proof room where in the silence we can listen to the whisperings of our "utmost spirit," and thus gain an inkling of the great truths of this life and of the life to come. If only we could remember the words of the poet-philosopher, Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Language is a solemn thing; it grows out of life—out of its agonies and ecstasies, its wants and weariness. Every language is a temple, in which the soul of those who speak it is enshrined."

Vigil.
 [S. E. ATHEARN.]
 Lord, give me sleep or I die,
 From night till morning is my cry;
 My heart beats so wearily,
 The hours pass so drearily,
 If my work on earth is done,
 If my race is nearly run,
 Oh, give me sweet patience to bear
 Whatever thy loving care
 Sees fitting, that I may be
 Prepared for Eternity.

[This poem is reprinted because of an error in a recent issue.]

Hewitt—I hear that Gruet is taking dancing lessons.
 Jewitt—Yes, he's going to enlist in the navy.

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