

their sovereign. When the power was taken away from the English throne, royalty was given a longer lease of life, if not of power. If parliament, at the suggestion of the chancellor and compelled by the stress of circumstances, imposes a tax on the bread of the English workman, it is quite likely that there will be riots. For the workman has not gained in meekness since the bread riots of 1869. Even now papers devoted to the interests of the laborer and apparently careless of the prosperity of England as a whole are invoking the spirit of Cobden and doing their part, so far as prophesying has a part in precipitating riots, to enrage the people over the proposition of increased taxation of the necessities of life.

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Richard Mansfield

Monsieur Beaucaire, in Booth Tarkington's story, does not marry Lady Mary Carlyle. The girl is a belle and a great lady of Bath in the time of George II in England and of Louis XV of France. Beaucaire is the Duke of Orleans, the nephew of the king and the heir apparent. He loved love so much that he fled the kingdom because he would not marry his cousin whom he had seen but twice. Those were days when the king could order a man's head off if he did not like him and it would come off. So the young prince fled to England while his uncle's wrath was a-cooling. He was young and handsome and unspoiled and he saw a beautiful lady; but he had fled to England as the hairdresser of the Marquis de Mirepoi, while the lady was haughty and although she was fascinated by this mixture of poet, prince and soldier, when she heard that he was a lackey she scorned him, though he was as much of a poet, prince and fighter as before she heard the news. In Booth Tarkington's story the prince remembers his gentle, faithful cousin who is truly in love with him and would marry him if he were a chimney sweep, when the spoiled belle repulses him. In the book, after the French ambassador's arrival and recognition of the Prince Imperial he will not forgive Lady Mary and goes back to France to mind his uncle and marry his cousin or anybody else whom the state shall select for his consort. But the story has been read by thousands, and a thousand or two saw the play at the Oliver last week.

In the play the lady renounces her pride and accepts her true lover while she still considers him a man of no particular birth. He says "Mary!" just as Mary Anderson used to say "Ingomar!" and they fall into the last-part-of-the-fifth-act attitude to the satisfaction of the audience and the assassination of realism. The curtain should have fallen on the prince in a doleful mood facing a chagrined lady who has lost the parti of the season and the greatest opportunity of her life, or of any woman's, for that matter. The habits of childhood are difficult to eradicate and all the books of our childhood ended, "So they were married and lived happily ever afterward." The stage is more conservative than literature and not nearly so diversified as the actual romances of life. A pair of stage lovers must be married, and unless it is a problem play or something from the unsanitary French sewer, they must be happy ever afterwards. This is unfortunate. Truth is better for man than the most flattering and comforting fiction.

It is true that the pampered daughter of wealth, whose veins distribute the thin blue blood of an aristocrat over her body, sometimes runs away with a coachman. But currying horses and driving them does not disqualify as the occupation of grooming men does. The occupation of coachman is not effeminate. It is certain that the proudest and most beautiful woman of a fashionable society would never marry a barber. The most fatuously insistent upon a happy ending must admit this.

On the other hand the woman is not born who could resist Richard Mansfield's wooing. It is likely that all the women in the audience thought Lady

Mary's surrender was natural. Mr. Mansfield retains his youthful grace and ease of movement. His voice is sonorous and thrilling. He reads his lines with exquisite discrimination and music. His technique is finished and his make-up is faultless. His support was beyond criticism.

Mr. Mansfield's companions complain of a haughtiness and a fastidiousness that makes association with him in the same company not an unmixed pleasure. As he grows older the satisfaction he takes in his own appearance, poses and costuming is more apparent. In the last scene, when he has the centre of the stage all to himself and he is seated in a throne chair and all the other members of the company are doing obeisance, when he is clothed in a rose-colored embroidered brocade court dress, when he blazes with the diamonds that should adorn such genius as his, a look of ineffable satisfaction rests upon his face while he feels that for a mimic moment, at least, he is in the proper relation to the rest of his world. Every man has his vanity, and we have forgiven Mansfield his pride long ago.

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College Degenerates

If the young people who are now undergraduates at the university are not benefited by the course, they are injured. It is as hard to stand still and go neither backward nor forward in morals and mental conditions as it is to remain stationary on a bicycle or on a pair of stilts. The young men and the young women who are in the university merely to have a good time and have not the innate love of culture would much better be earning their living or helping to make home happier for the families of which they are members.

When older people, who long ago were graduated from school, go away from home into a strange and incurious environment where the restraints of acquaintanceship are removed, some behave just as well as ever. There are others whose morality is not deep-seated and inveterate and they play pranks and allow themselves liberties that they never take at home.

There are perhaps a thousand or fifteen hundred out-of-town students who register at the university every fall. After the first homesickness has worn off, the wine of liberty intoxicates them and they are apt to act foolishly. The regular entertainments of society seem tame. Deep draughts of youth and of unaccustomed liberty go to the head, and the average undergraduate's head is not strong and his equilibrium is easily disturbed.

The custom of rushing only freshmen for the fraternities adds to his conceit. When immediately upon arrival the youth who has nothing in particular to add to society is courted by delegates from three or four fraternities who send him flowers, invite him to ride, to dine, take him to the theatre, laugh at his attenuated jokes and ignore his rising and insufferable conceit, the effect upon the youth's character is lamentable. Upon the young women subjected to this process the effect is just the same and is more lasting. Fellows take the conceit and the braggadocio out of a brother by ridiculing his pretentious remarks and his self-laudatory stories. But girls are gentler and their schoolmates suffer for the drastic course which, however painful, would make them useful members of a fraternity. Hazing is not without very desirable characteristics. There is no process yet discovered which can altogether take its place and show a young man and woman that they are not the centre of the system and that the new world they have been born into has no special respect for them and no disposition to overlook faults of conceit or selfishness or of undue self-aggrandizement. In a school properly organized by the undergraduates the new-comers learn to rate themselves again, and more justly. The system of rushing freshmen spoils them, permits them to go through the university without learning that very useful and converting

definition of their relationship to society, uninfluenced by the enervating fondness and prejudiced good opinion of parents and parents' friends. The greatest service one man can do another is to help him to find his level, and without destroying his self-respect help him to a realization of his comparative unimportance in the scheme of things.

Because they are blasé and tired of the amusements and distractions of wholesome society, certain Yale undergraduates have organized a society for the express purpose of encouraging students to break the laws. At the club's annual meeting degrees are conferred for "B. S." (burglary and stealing), "D. D." (drunk and disorderly), "S. T." (sneak thief). Of course this is in the way of fooling and humor. But the young men who enjoy this sort of fun would much better be at work. The faculty have forbidden the club to hold meetings and members who acknowledge membership will be expelled. Most of the undergraduates are as determined to suppress it as the authorities, college and municipal, are themselves. The fact of its existence demonstrates the inadvisability of attempting to educate vicious youngsters for whom there is but one way of salvation, and that is by the way of work.

The preamble of the criminal club's constitution reads "that it is the object of this society to promote a knowledge of crime and the psychological basis of crime among its members, and a contempt for the New Haven police department."

At a recent banquet behind barred doors the club adopted the following: "No person shall be eligible for membership who is not a college man and who has not been arrested for some offense against the law of the land. Upon a vote of two-thirds of the members already admitted, however, any student may be admitted to honorary membership who has shown unusual boldness in the commission of crime and in escaping the consequences thereof."

There is at Nebraska university no organized band of criminals, but there are a dozen or so vicious young men and women who prowl about the back doors of residences where festivities of some kind are in progress. They watch their chance and steal ice cream or cake and retire to a fraternity house where they eat their plunder, unconscious, perhaps, that they have joined the criminal classes and that their university career is for them worse than futile.

It is to be said in favor of the present administration that when a thief is once thoroughly identified and convicted of theft, he or she is dismissed the university. Hostesses whose refreshments have been stolen by student gangs set a policeman to watch the refreshments they intend later to offer their guests.

The men and women who lurk in the bottoms are herded by the police into the reservation. If they come out boldly at night they are reprimanded and sent back to their purlieus.

The well-dressed gang of both sexes sheltered in fraternity houses slip by the police. Such students are disgracing the institution, the very large majority of self-respecting and respectable undergraduates, and destroying their own careers.

The young women who accept invitations from bachelors to enter their quarters without a chaperone should be immediately returned to their parents. An education can be of little use to a young woman who has learned at the same time to lay aside for the sake of a frolic her own self-respect.

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Assessment Equalization

Nebraska people have got it into their heads that the railroads are shirking taxes, and some of the citizens of the state are quite excited about it. Without examining tax lists or pretending to make a comparative and exhaustive examination of the subject, they wag their heads and say it is a shame that the railroads of the state do not bear their share of the

burdens of state and city government. Mr. Frank Harrison, editor of The Nebraska State Record, can not be accused of slavish consideration for corporations, railroad or otherwise. He is singularly free from prejudice, and his reasoning and judgments are sound. It occurred to him to examine the tax lists after listening to the loose talk about the railroads not paying their share of the taxes, and as a man interested in public events and as an editor of a paper, he made a comparative examination of the amounts the farmers and the railroad companies pay into the treasury.

The present agitation for the purpose of obtaining a higher railroad assessment was begun because the state was in debt and not primarily because the taxation was unequal. Now, it does not matter how much we need the money, if the railroads pay their share of the taxation they should not be compelled to pay more, just because the farmers are the legislators and county commissioners and county assessors and the railroads are only represented indirectly in the various departments of city and county administration.

According to the records, which Mr. Harrison has printed and called attention to, the state of Nebraska is in debt to the amount of \$1,907,435.11. Taxpayers of the state owe it \$3,631,357.40. There is not a railroad in the state indebted to a county or city to the amount of one dollar. Whatever the railroad taxes are, big or little, equal or unequal, the railroad treasurers have paid them and the cities, counties and state have had the use of the money from the time the first rail projected a mile into the state from the Iowa border. The farmers and other politicians who are talking about the oppression of the railroads and the favoritism shown them have not done so well. They owe the state almost twice the amount of the debt, or to be exact, within \$183,512.82 of twice the amount of the public debt.

In his report, November 30, 1900, State Auditor Cornell said: "In 1893 the assessed valuation of the state was \$193,733,123; in 1900, \$171,747,593. With our increased population and wealth, the assessed valuation of the state is \$21,985,530 less than it was seven years ago, a discreditable showing, indeed."

Mr. Harrison has made a comparative study of the taxes assessed against the most valuable of the agricultural products of Nebraska in the most fertile and prosperous counties as well as in those whose acreage is devoted to grazing. He concludes from adequate premises that raising the assessment of the railroads will not remedy the evil because of which prejudice is making a scapegoat of the railroads.

Mr. Harrison says: "I have little sympathy with those who raise the cry that the railroads are escaping taxation and that to radically raise their assessments would remedy the difficulty. The shirking is general. I find on inquiry that in western counties like Kimball and Dawes the railroads pay almost one-half of the entire tax, while tens of thousands of high priced cattle in those counties escape taxation altogether."

"In Cherry county, which is equal in area to four states like Rhode Island, the single line of road pays almost one-third of the total tax. And yet, from counties like these comes the demand for increased taxation of railroads."

"In Dawes county live stock assessments for this year are as follows: Horses and mules, \$3 to \$10; three-year-old steers and older, \$8; two-year-old steers, \$5; yearlings, \$3; cows, \$5 to \$7; hogs, \$1 per 100 pounds. In Box Butte, adjoining Dawes on the south, horses are assessed at \$20, two-year-old steers, \$24; three-year-olds, \$35; yearling steers, \$16; and other stock in proportion."

"In Fillmore, one of the best counties in the state, where it is the constant boast that land is selling for fifty, sixty and even seventy-five dollars an acre, and where there is some of the finest