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LOW MORAL STANDARDS.

A writer in the Boston Transcript says that moralists who are considering the serious state of this wonderful country, aver that the root of all evil is not in the trusts, or the corruption in politics, or the unions, but in the degenerated public opinion which looks on indifferently if not admiringly at success—no matter how won. As an illustration he tells a little story of real life as recently witnessed on a public street. A full coal truck was passing, he says, when four boys, not over ten or twelve years old, jumped on the back, each holding on with one hand, while all three of them on the street as fast as possible with the other. The driver did not hear them (or perhaps did not want to hear them), and they continued doing this for half a block. The sidewalk was lined up with adults, laughing and evidently thinking it a huge joke. At last the driver did see them and he then threw a lump of coal after them. Then they all ran back and rapidly threw the pieces into an empty lot at the side, to be picked up at their leisure. They thus could make more in one hour robbing than a paper boy could make in half a day working. Which, the narrator asks, will they do in the future, work or steal? Which, we might further ask, would they be likely to do if entrusted with a public office, in view of the fact that their thieving was made in public view and called forth laughter instead of reproach?

Another story from real life may be added. A Georgia banker who wrecked his health and his business by overwork, finally settled matters with his creditors by committing suicide, the insurance on his life aggregating \$1,015,000. A dispatch says that the bitter feeling against him on the part of the public has subsided since his death, which simply means that the creditors, who were paid were pleased that the man committed suicide, so they could get their money. What did they care, if a soul went to perdition, as long as their money was coming in?

We are told that cases of suicide for insurance are by no means uncommon. Not long ago a southern business man who found himself financially embarrassed went to St. Louis, bought \$50,000 in twenty-four-hour accident policies, leaped from the train on the way home and was killed. The policies were paid.

One who will carefully consider the numerous incidents of life of such a nature, will agree with the proposition that the root of much evil is to be found in the degenerate public opinion which looks on indifferently if not admiringly at success, no matter how won. A writer for a magazine with keen satire gives the advice to graduates, never to contract debts but to get money by any other method, even by stealing, if all honest avenues are closed. That is really a widespread sentiment. It is vain to preach against corruption, as long as the moral ideals are low. Let the tree first be made good, and the fruit will be good naturally.

DISCIPLINE IN THE SCHOOLS.

Prominent teachers in New York have been airing their views on this question at a public hearing held by the committee on elementary schools of the board of education of the metropolis. Originally the question was raised by the principals of the various public schools. As a consequence members of the board have been overwhelmed with petitions asking that the board of education's by-laws forbidding corporal punishment be amended so as to permit the infliction of it in certain cases and under proper restrictions. One of the principals submitted statistics, compiled from inquiries sent to various principals asking their views on the subject. Out of 296 replies, 234 principals said that punishment was necessary, and that 6,779 pupils out of schools containing 475,000 pupils needed some such discipline. Other speakers declared that corporal punishment was a relic of barbarism. No decision was reached and the matter went over.

The problem that confronts the New York schools is one that is found in every school in the land. It is no doubt true that some pupils do need corporal punishment, not many. It is an unusual teacher who can always decide right in the matter, for the obduracy of a pupil is not infrequently the result of the incompetency and impatience of the teacher. Where such is the case pupils and teacher should be separated, while nothing can be worse for a pupil than to make him bend to the will of such a teacher. That is not upholding authority but a mere using of force without rhyme or reason.

But there are pupils on whom no appeal to reason, to self interest, to pride, has any effect, who are insensible to every form of moral suasion and who

are plague spots in the schools. If allowed to go uncorrected they become bullies and eventually candidates for the reform school. Is it not better to administer corporal punishment to such a child than to let him run to seed? It is plainly a case where to spare the rod is to spoil the child. Moral suasion is good and will conquer in most cases but not in all; in those some other means must be used. And if children know that they will be used that fact has a strong deterrent effect upon them. Pupils in the schools, like children in the home, should be made to realize that proper authority must be respected, that they cannot be permitted to become masters; that understood, usually all goes well. To bring this about it is sometimes necessary to correct a child by administering punishment. In the public schools it should never be resorted to unless the most dire necessity for it exists, and never should it be permitted where a teacher would do so in a spirit of revenge and hate.

And it should never be forgotten that intractable pupils in the great majority of cases, are the product of incompetent teachers.

CHURCH AND STAGE.

Some time ago, Mr. Frederick Warde occupied the pulpit in Trinity church, Toledo, O., and spoke on the relations existing between church and stage. He said, in part, that the public alone is to blame for the presentation upon the stage of poor plays. "You complain the quality of the plays you get," he said, in the course of his remarks, "but it is your own fault if you get poor ones. The manager is in the business for the money that is in it. He presents just what the public demands. Don't blame us if you get plays of low moral tone. There is no one at fault but the public. If the public demands uplifting and moral plays, it will see them."

This is true. But, it is only a part of the truth. Bad plays create a low taste, just as the use of tobacco or liquor creates a craving for those stimulants. It is very well to say that if there were no demand for tobacco, or whiskey, there would be no tobacco stands, and no saloons. It is very well to say that it is the fault of the public that establishments are kept up, where soul and body are being ruined. But it is equally true that through such establishments many are led astray, who are not strong enough to withstand temptation. Theater managers are, of course, in the business for the money they can make, but they certainly have a moral responsibility, too. It is their duty to know something about the effects of the plays they offer to the public, just as it is the duty of a manufacturer to know that the food he sells is not adulterated with poisonous ingredients.

It is remarkable that the celebrated actor was permitted to occupy the pulpit of a church and deliver a sermon on such a topic. That proves that the church and the stage are no longer bitter enemies. And why should they be? Both might be powers for good.

CONSCRIPTION IN ENGLAND.

According to a London dispatch, the royal commission on the volunteer militia recommends conscription in Great Britain as the only means of providing a home defense army adequate for the protection of the country in the absence or partial absence of the regular troops. The commissioners are of the opinion that the principles adopted by all the other great European states must be largely adopted by Great Britain, and that it is the duty of every able-bodied citizen to be trained for national defense.

We hope this recommendation will not be adopted. Great Britain has, so far, been able to withstand the tidal wave of militarism that rushed in over Europe as a consequence of the Bismarckian policy of empire building, and that fell like a curse upon especially the smaller states, and it is to be hoped that she will withstand a little longer, until the angel of peace appears, awakening the nations from their bad dreams of hatred and death, to a life of love and peaceful activity.

In the nations that have adopted conscription, this has been a fruitful source of emigration. Those countries have lost thousands of their best sons, and daughters too, on account of that form of slavery. It has been proved that the volunteer is superior on the field to the Old World fighters who are compelled to go to the front, like beasts driven to the slaughter house. No good service can be expected under such circumstances. The Americans, for instance, have shown themselves as the best fighters both on land and sea, in the wars the country has had, and there can be no doubt that the chief reason for this is that their service is voluntary, and not compulsory.

Now look out for June brides.

The President never smokes. Does he ever fume?

The Russians seem to have had a free pat in their ear.

If the Ion-le theory is correct Mr. Perdicaris should soon be released.

June opens as though there were going to be thirty rare days in this month.

Summer having come, the season for railroad excursion accidents is near at hand.

Where divorces increase at a rapid rate it is because the parties to them live at a rapid rate.

The nation may be doomed, but to nothing more serious than walking the earth for a certain time.

It begins to look as though the delegates to the Springfield, Ill., convention were determined to "stand pat."

It may be true that people eat too much, but all the scientists in the world couldn't convince a boy that he does.

Bishop Burgess declares that the di-

vorice court is the devil's work shop. It is an open shop and not a union one.

A Tennessee Judge has decided that a woman cannot be forced to tell her age. That jurist spoke from the bench and experience.

Banker Rothchild expressed a great desire to go to prison. His desire has been granted, and he is now safe in Sing Sing for nine years.

When the Russians say that the fall of Port Arthur would not mean the end of the war it comes near meaning that they believe it would be.

Mr. Bryan has not yet definitely determined whether he will bolt or swallow the St. Louis ticket. It lacks some time of being up to him.

How Mr. Perdicaris must regret that he cannot see the naval display his adopted country is making in Tangier bay, and all on his account.

Perhaps the reason Uncle Sam called on France to aid him in securing the release of Perdicaris is that "they order these things better in France."

Mr. George F. Baer, head of the coal trust, says that the coal companies charge all the traffic will bear. It is a frank admission and much better than the lies usually put forth in defense of extortionate prices.

In Texas the red ant is doing up the boll weevil in splendid style. Congressmen wrestled with the problem and could do nothing. Go to the ant, thou congressman, learn of her ways and be wise.

The Protestant Episcopal Council of Virginia has amended the canons of faith so that members can attend theaters and balls and go to horse races without fear of being disciplined. The Methodist General conference renewed its faith in the sinfulness of such amusements. In a world where opinions clash, it is convenient to have "canons of faith" that can be changed, or retained, according to the vote of the crowd.

"With a sufficiently defective microscope and with adequate unskillfulness in its employment, it is possible to make unlimited discoveries in the domain of bacteriology," says an English scientist. This is true in more than one sense. The moral perversity who looks at his fellow men through his own defective glass, is sure to find faults with everybody. Those who view the Church through a criminally defective microscope are sure to see deformities, whereas others discover only the most beautiful truths.

The late Lord Acton is said (by John Pollock in the Independent Review) to have spoken of Macaulay at a dinner as follows:

"I was once with two eminent men, the late bishop of Oxford and the present bishop of London (Stubbs and Creighton). On another occasion I was with two far more eminent men, the two most learned men in the world. I need hardly tell you their names; they were Mommsen and Harnack. On each occasion the question arose who was the greatest historian the world had ever produced. On each occasion the name finally agreed upon, was that of Macaulay." Burke and Macaulay Lord Acton held to be the two greatest of English writers, and Burke at his best to be our wisest political thinker.

"It is an encouraging sign," says the Springfield Republican, "that so many of the annual conventions of great religious denominations are expressing themselves strongly regarding the 'consecutive polygamy' or rapid-fire divorce evil. There is little use in denouncing venerable Mormon apostles as long as divorces-while-you-wait are a characteristic of our monogamous Christian civilization in America. One good result of agitation may be a stiffening in the courts. Judges in certain states will not sanction the loose legal methods that so often have become a public scandal if they realize that public sentiment is being educated against them." This will be generally endorsed. The great trouble with most of the would-be "Mormon"-reformers, who are busy about the mote in their brother's eye, is, that they utterly ignore the beam in their own.

COMMENTS ON THE WAR.

Oakland Enquirer.
The Hague peace tribunal has not put an end to war, but it has proposed certain laws designed to make war less terrible. To these laws all the civilized nations have agreed, and all submit. They still fight, slaughter each other's subjects in as wholesale a manner by the stress of the waves, destructive weapons and blow each other's warships out of the water with mines and torpedoes; but they must do all these things in as orderly and humane a manner as possible. There must be no unnecessary cruelty or wanton destruction of the property of non-combatants. These laws are the first step toward universal peace. The very fact that nations consent to bind themselves to certain usages in time of war presages the time when international arbitration will become the rule.

Los Angeles Express.
Owners of neutral shipping are complaining of the presence of floating mines in the waters surrounding the Liao Tung peninsula, many of which possibly have been torn from their moorings by the stress of the waves, while others undoubtedly have been started on their erratic voyages designed as derelicts. In such cases the innocent bystander may suffer while he is far removed from the scene of war, and considering the mobility of the sea, he never may be entirely safe while navigating salt water. This brings a new problem into naval warfare.

Kansas City Times.
The activity of the Mikado's forces near Port Arthur would indicate that the taking of that place is regarded as immediately essential. At the time this "Gibraltar of the Orient" was cut off on the north and the harbor closed on the south it was assumed that the Japanese would be satisfied with a siege. But at the same time that the unexpected activity of the investing forces is reported comes the declara-

tion from St. Petersburg that Gen. Kuropatkin is mobilizing an immense army with the intention of driving Gen. Kuropatkin back and regaining possession of the Liao Tung peninsula. If such a thing is possible, the result would be to place the Japanese forces between Gen. Kuropatkin's army, and the forces now in Port Arthur—a situation that would certainly not be desirable. The fear of such a campaign may account for the effort to hasten the taking of Port Arthur and the sacrifices that are being made to that end.

Pueblo Chieftain.
And it is probable that the land battles resulting from the attempt of the Japanese to capture the fortress from its landward side will present many interesting, and possibly some novel features to the military experts.

Springfield Republican.
The value of interior land fortresses to those who hold them is not estimated very highly by Von der Goltz, the German military writer, in his work on fortifications. An interior fortress is usually something that sooner or later is taken, and if it is not worth the taking it may be a useless thing entirely. But such a fortress is also a naval base, and is an important factor in the struggle for naval supremacy its value is necessarily much increased. In the case of Port Arthur, it is the naval importance of the fortress that renders its position so significant and impels the Japanese to bring to bear all their energies in reducing it in the quickest possible time. Recent events, indeed, have served to emphasize the necessity for the fortress capture if the war, on the Japanese side, is not to be a failure.

San Francisco Chronicle.
When Kuropatkin was sent to the front St. Petersburg was firmly convinced that he would put the fighting spirit into the Russian side of the Manchurian campaign and drive the Japanese into the sea. If the report is true that, after inspecting the defenses of Mukden and Liao Yang, he has recommended to Alexieff the immediate withdrawal of all the troops to Harbin rather than risk a battle at either place with the Japanese, he is not likely to inspire his men or any one else with the belief that he is a fighting general.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Russo-Japanese articles in the June number of The Booklover's Magazine are a group of papers dealing with the study of certain underlying principles that are gradually coming to the front in discussion of the war question. Harold Bole's article—the fourth in his series on "The Two Pacific"—is a discussion of the hitherto underestimated ambition of Japan to be the propagator of a new gospel of civilization for the world. N. T. Bacon compares the resources of the two warring nations and concludes that Japan has the better strategic power of the two. "The brief note by Professor William Lyon Phelps on 'What Russian Children are Reading' is a side-light on the literary tastes of young Russia. The 'War Pictures from the Forbidden Zone' are a group of interesting photographs, taken specially for this magazine.—1235 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

Pearson's Magazine for June has five short stories—"The Fire Within," by Samuel Merwin; "Pat Weldon, Reformer," by Edwin J. Webster; "How Mr. Bluford Painted for His Right Hand," by "One of the Chronicles of Don Quixote," by K. and "Hesketh Prehensile," "On the Trail of the Bomb," by A. W. Tolker, and "The Last Rose of Summer," by Dorothea Deskin; four special articles—"Thomas Nast," "A Picture of the Times," "What History was Warm in the Making," "The Civil War," by Albert Bigelow Paine; "Daughters of the Nile," by Broughton Brandenburg; Carpenter and His "Brunettes," by Cyrus Townsend Brady; and "The Story of the London and Globe," "The Case of Whittaker Wright," by Arnold White; the Home Notes articles; "A Lullaby," by Edith M. Collum and illustrated interviews with J. Forbes Robertson, Wilton Lackaye, and Madam Arctickie. "Pearson's Talks With Players." The fiction is bright and entertaining, and the illustrations by some of the best known artists.—Astor Place, New York.

The Red Cat for June has, as usually five short stories. They are entitled: "From Blonde to Brunette," "The Wakening of Woodrow," "The skyscraper in B Flat," "The Daughter of Mail-order Bete," and "The Patient in Twenty-two"—Shortstory Publishing Co., 144 High St., Boston, Mass.

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