

recall the days when, as a college boy, I used to count it a month's delight to save for, and buy, and devour, and pencil, and reread some volume of my especial desire, I can not help feeling that something good and helpful, something morally and intellectually stimulating, has gone out for my life.

"Is it not true that there is some ethical significance in the right ownership of books? I say the right ownership, because to possess them as mere chattels, or furniture, or ornaments, is neither a moral or an intellectual benefit. The young person who has a strong desire to make a book his legal property will not exhaust this desire until the book has become his mental and spiritual property also. One of my old teachers used to say that boys are naturally misers, and if they put a penny into a thing, they will be sure to take two pennies' worth of satisfaction out of it. As I look back upon my own experience I am convinced that this is true, at least of books. I am willing to confess that I have never got at the real, inmost soul and essence of a book since I quit buying them.

"If the public library deprives a person of the real moral helpfulness that comes from the ownership of books, it is, negatively at least, and in so far, a demoralizing institution. Anything that abates moral vigor and vitality is demoralizing. No matter how negative or indirect the influence may be, it counts just as positively on the wrong side."

#### BUILDERS.

One of the speakers at the funeral of Elder Elias Morris, which took place in the Tabernacle yesterday (Sunday), paid to the deceased a tribute most impressive and eloquent, though expressed in a short and simple sentence: "He was a builder." Few in the vast congregation that heard these words fully realized their import; yet they explained the reason why that congregation had gathered there. Elder Morris was a man who took of the elements of nature and, by the powers of his intelligence, which were made effective by his energy, industry and sympathy, created from them homes in which many families were sheltered and made happy; business blocks that were handsome ornaments to the city and added to its wealth and dignity; pavements that were a great public improvement, and beneficial in many ways; smelters that made it possible for men to extract the wealth contained in the ores the surrounding mountains produced.

"He was a builder." He put in concrete, tangible and enduring form, the riches of the elements. He gave labor employment. He put money into circulation. He furnished the poor with food, clothing and shelter. He increased the amount of taxable property and thus helped to make all the people wealthy; and when he was suddenly taken away, a realization of what the whole community had lost swept over it, and teeming thousands gathered to testify, by their presence at his obsequies, their recognition of his worth.

What a lesson is here conveyed to the young men of our commonwealth! Do they desire to become benefactors of their fellows? Entrenched in the hearts of the people? Recognized leaders in the higher spheres of human action? Substantial pillars of both church and state? Then let them become builders. Let them apply themselves to the construction from the elements the Almighty has furnished, of those objects and facilities that do most to widen the difference between man and brute, advance civilization and enhance the happiness of the human race. Let them build homes, mills, schools, factories, foundries, smelters

canals, railroads; let them create the commodities that sustain and protect life, and make it pleasant; let them bring into existence from out the wonderful and mystical recesses of the mind, such works of art as elevate and ennoble; let them record for the education of their kind, the thoughts that will come to them by inspiration if the gift is given opportunity; let them become builders, creators.

"The greatest thing that is said of Deity is that He is a Creator; and to the extent that a man creates that which is good, true and beautiful, does he imitate his heavenly Parent, and by such imitation draw nearer to Him. Perhaps we need men who are not builders; who produce nothing. A hive of bees needs drones. But there can be no question that the human drone cannot attain here nor hereafter, to the honor, power and glory that are often the reward in this state of existence, and always in the next, of the builders, the producers, the creators, the benefactors among mankind.

#### THIEVES AND MILLIONAIRES.

In the daily "News" of the 14th inst. was an editorial article in relation to the outlaws that infest the border region between Utah, Colorado and Wyoming, and the conference, then in progress in this city, between the governors of the three states named, looking to the suppression of the bandits, whose extermination the "News" favored. Living Issues of the 18th inst. refers approvingly to the article, adds comments of its own in regard to the evil the governors were considering, and says:

"There are many grades and kinds of these despoilers of property, all of which ought to come under the ban of the governors. Take such a man as C. P. Huntington. Through his stealing and legislative manipulation, through bribery and otherwise, practically has possession of the state of California. In law he owns it. He did his stealing through law, but it was stealing all the same and was attended with same effects upon both the people and himself as though he had stolen in a manner adopted by cattle thieves. We consider it just as bad to steal a railroad as it is to steal a cow, and just as great a wrong to rob all the people in the state as it is to rob one ranchman of a sheep. We, like the 'News,' favor extermination of thieves. We favor exterminating C. P. Huntington! What do you say, Brother of the 'News'? Do you say, Amen? Why not?"

No, the "News" does not say amen to such sentiments. The assertion contained in the foregoing quotation, that C. P. Huntington in law owns California, belongs to the same kind of exaggeration as do the sentences which portray him as a great thief. We do not say that there would be no color of truth in a statement to the effect that Huntington has placed the state of California at a disadvantage in order to enrich himself; but we do not think he deserves to be rated as a great criminal because he has done this. In our opinion his power in the state mentioned, and the degree of criminality entering into the operations by which he achieved it, are greatly exaggerated in the paragraph above quoted.

Living Issues continues its article by an arraignment of John Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil trust, in terms even more severe than it applies to Huntington. Of the former it says:

"We have in our mind another thief of the same kind, only that he is much smoother; yes, he is oily. This thief, though his various manipulations with

legislatures, courts, railroads and other combines, has foisted a system of pillaging the people that is so perfect and so far reaching that none can escape his maraudings. The rich and the poor alike are compelled to pay tribute to this outlaw every day in the year. There is no avenue of escape, and he applies his force relentlessly on all and all alike. Not only so, but he is most devoutly religious. He claims to be the Lord's special agent to rob the masses, on a big commission, a commission of 99 1/4 per cent of the gross receipts. The other 1/2 per cent goes to the Lord; that is, he says it does. We refer to John Rockefeller. He is an outlaw of the most dangerous type. He is not only an outlaw but he is above law. No law can touch him! What! Is the 'News' editor shocked again? Why not? If you propose to exterminate thieves, why not big thieves as well as little ones? Why pass by unnoticed the thief that enters forcibly into the sacred precincts of our households and steals from every family in the land, while we unmercifully exterminate the purveyor of a fifteen cent donkey?"

"There are a few other thieves we would like to see exterminated, and hope the governors, not only of our western states, but of all the states as well, will unite in the work, and pursue it to a successful termination. Will the 'News' join us in this work?"

Being thus directly appealed to, the "News" takes occasion to say that it is not in sympathy with such utterances as are here reproduced from the columns of its contemporary. The element of justice which undoubtedly exists as a foundation for complaint against John Rockefeller, is so much more than offset by the reckless and exaggerated injustice of such assaults upon him, that intelligent sympathy hesitates before taking sides, and is liable to rest finally with him rather than with his accusers.

It is getting to be the fashion in the United States for a certain class of speakers and journals to indiscriminately class the owners and managers of capital as thieves and robbers. According to their ethics, the possession of millions is a corpus delicti, the body of a crime, no matter how those millions were acquired. When the working classes have become thoroughly converted to this doctrine, it will be easy for them to so train their consciences that all reprisals possible for labor to visit upon capital and its owners, will be considered by them to be justifiable, and then will ensue such scenes of blood and rapine as our race has never witnessed.

If Living Issues would urge the conviction by lawful means and processes, of all who commit the crime of bribery, the "News" would be in harmony with it on that point. But when men acquire wealth by lawful means, no matter how great the amount, the "News" does not believe in denouncing them indiscriminately as thieves and robbers. The injustice of so doing is at least as great as the injustice with which they can be truthfully charged.

#### EXTINGUISHED IN BLOOD.

In February last the entire population of this State was shocked with the details of a crime committed in Northern Mexico in which Mrs. S. F. McDonald was brutally murdered. The outlaws were bent upon plunder and finding themselves detected proceeded to add the shedding of innocent blood to their doubtless already long list of diabolical deeds. Although clues were almost wholly wanting at the time, the victim having been alone in her store in an out-of-way place and the murderers escaping at once, there was little