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TRUE GRATITUDE.

As Thanksgiving time is drawing near, public attention is focused upon the phenomenal prosperity this country enjoys at the present time, as one of the chief blessings for which to express gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts. This is but natural. The American nation has achieved great material success, and the fact is felt in every settlement and every home throughout the length and breadth of the Republic. As already noticed in these columns, one of the most significant signs of prosperity is the voluntary increase of wages by a number of large corporations of the country. According to the dispatches, the Pennsylvania railroad system leads this movement, by a ten per cent raise in the pay of its 165,000 employees. This means, it is stated, that about \$12,000,000 more will be distributed among these men, this year than last year. The Amalgamated Copper company, the United States Steel corporation and many other large corporations are considering to follow the lead, and as a result it is thought that at least a million wage earners will obtain an additional share of the large profits of the employers. The conditions that have made this possible are such as to prompt expressions of gratitude, and Thanksgiving time is therefore approached with a general desire to observe the day in the spirit in which it was instituted.

But it is evident that gratitude for material prosperity is not what it ought to be, unless it is accompanied by an honest desire, on the part of the people as well as individuals, to merit a continuation of those blessings. For that reason it is important that the innermost heart of the nation should be searched, and that whatever is not in accordance with the laws of truth, justice, and righteousness should be sincerely repented of, and put away. This nation has a mission in the world. It has been called upon to lead mankind to light and perfection, and its very prosperity, power and influence have been given it to enable it to perform this great work. America is a "chosen" nation, as was Israel anciently. It cannot, without disaster to itself, follow in the footsteps of the nations that are still in darkness and bondage. In Russia today we see the results of corruption in high places, of cruelty and unspeakable tyranny, and of terrorism as a result of the prevalence of ignorance and prejudices. It is an object lesson that should not be lost. In this country, particularly, it should be the firm determination of every good citizen to put down by lawful means every attempt at retrogression. The light we have received must be kept burning continually, and the gifts that we enjoy must be used, not only for our own advancement, but for the blessing of the entire human family. Only when this is our aim can we celebrate Thanksgiving day in the proper spirit.

IN THE COLD WORLD.

The friends of Commander Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, are of the opinion that he will make another attempt to reach the north pole next year. They quote the explorer himself to that effect, and in view of the fact that his ship has suffered but little in the Arctic regions and that no accident befell his party, it can well be believed that he will make another attempt, provided his friends and admirers are willing to furnish the necessary funds.

Since Commander Peary entered upon the field of Arctic exploration he has surveyed and mapped hundreds of miles of coast land along the northern edge of the islands north of Greenland and the American main land. He has also penetrated to the north farther than any other explorer and overcome numerous difficulties and perils. And he has won for himself a place of honor in the ranks of geographical explorers. He has also demonstrated, possibly, that the north pole cannot be reached, no matter how well equipped a party may be, except the weather conditions are exceptionally favorable.

Commander Peary's experience in the northern regions led interest to an article by Otto Nordenskjold, published in the North American Review, and giving an account of explorations in the Antarctic regions. Mr. Nordenskjold was sent out by the Swedish government, and in February, 1902, he and his party landed on an island named Snow Hill, with provisions for two years. As a result of his explorations the existence in prehistoric times of an Antarctic continent was established. Wind-swept peaks protruded here and there from the mass of ice and snow, and in such spots many fossils of the animal world of former times were found. Mr. Nordenskjold is of the opinion that in a comparatively recent age there was a land within the Antarctic circle, not covered by snow as now, but adorned with luxuriant forests, having a rich animal world, consisting largely of birds of gigantic size and strange forms. He believes that this Antarctic continent once formed a link between Africa, America and Australia, and that these continents received many of their present animal and plant forms from the extreme south.

The discoveries of Antarctic explorers bearing on the remote history of our world seem to be important enough to justify all the expenditures those explorations have entailed, as well as the bravery of the explorers, of perils and privations. It is a question whether the Arctic explorations, though much more numerous, have brought any more important results from a scientific point of view. Some day some traveler will be fortunate enough to place his country's flag on the mysterious spot of our earth where there is no direction but south, and we hope Peary will be the man to accomplish this. His perseverance and indomitable pluck deserve this reward.

MARS AND ITS PEOPLE.

Professor Lowell seems to have arrived at the conclusion that, to assert that the planet Mars is inhabited by intelligent beings is no longer to risk one's reputation as a matter of fact scientist. When the guess first was ventured that the markings known as "canals" revealed an intelligent plan, it was thought to be too fanciful for serious consideration, but that view has gradually given way, and it is now pretty well established that no other theory so far suggested, accounts for the Marital phenomena as satisfactory as the theory of the presence on the planet of intelligent beings.

In a series of lectures in Huntington Hall, Boston, Mr. Lowell interestingly explained what is known of our neighboring planet and drew some deductions which seem irrefutable. He pointed out that there are no oceans on Mars and that five-eighths of its surface is desert. But it is not without water, since it has its polar caps of snow and ice. Then, coming to the question of canals he maintained that their unnatural regularity, their amazing uniformity, their great length and their adherence to the great circle, are traits of artificiality. These traits, instead of disappearing on closer acquaintance, have come out always with greater insistence. The disposition of the canals, the relations which they bear to one another, the way in which they are attended by the cases, all of these matters disclose an orderliness that we cannot refer to nature. They cannot, the lecturer said, be rivers, nor can they be cracks in the surface of the orb. He quoted the following data that have been confirmed by careful observation:

"The threads of the world-wide network of canals, stand connected with the dark blue patches at the edge of one of the other of the polar caps. But they are not always visible. In the winter season they fall to show. Not till the cap begins to melt do they appear, and then they come out dark and strong. From their poleward origin the lines begin to darken down the disc. One after the other takes up the thread of visibility to hand it on to the next place. A flow is here apparent journeying with measure progress over the surface of the globe. It is certainly the mental ear detects the sound of water flowing down the latitudes. Water, then, must be the word of the enigma, the clue that will lead us to the unloosing of the riddle."

As for the motive of drawing such a net of canals over the surface of the planet, Mr. Lowell found it in the prevalent scarcity of water, and the necessity of conducting it from the polar regions, where it is being stored up in the form of snow and ice. We are justified, he said, in believing that we have unearthed the cause, and our conclusion is that we have in these strange features witnessed that life, and life of no mean order, at present inhabits the planet Mars. And he added: "Not only do the observations lead us to the conclusion that Mars is at this moment inhabited, but they lead us at the further one that these denizens are of an order whose acquaintance is worth the making. The fact that they exist is the important one, made all the more so by their precedence of us in the path of evolution."

Mars is supposed to be a much older planet than the earth, and in its present state it is said to forecast the fate of our own world. The drying up of the planet, we are told, must continue until every drop of moisture is gone and life there, as we know its forms, will be a thing of the past. And when the last flame of life has flickered out, the planet will float about in space a dead world, until, through some cosmic catastrophe, it may be reduced to fragments to be used, perhaps, in future eons in the construction of a new world.

The easiest way to live up to one's promises is to cut down the promises.

Colonel Harris was not elected but he succeeded in getting Kansas in Hoch.

It seems to be the open season for railroad accidents. And every advantage is being taken of it.

Secretary Shaw goes into Wall Street simply to speculate on the outlook and not on the stocks.

It will be interesting to know the President's opinion of the Panama "ditch" as a place in which to make a last fight.

It is said that Commander Peary will make another trial for the north pole next year. The commander's life has become a series of trials.

According to reports to the war department, Cuba is the paradise for horse thieves. It is the paradise for almost anything but law and order.

A Scranton, Pa., man embraced his best girl so hard that her hat pin pierced his fifth rib and entered his heart, causing death. Few men are killed by the prick of love or conscience.

To prevent being mistaken for a deer and shot, Governor-elect Hughes wears a bright red cap when in the Adirondack woods. Here is a chance for the Hearst papers to charge that he has donned the red cap of anarchy.

Secretary Metcalf has finished his investigation of the Japanese school children case in California and returned to Washington. What his findings are of course is unknown, except that he found a very complicated and disagreeable situation.

The flight of the balloon, Milano over Mont Blanc is really a very great feat, one of the greatest yet attempted in aeronautics, and augurs well for it.

It entitles Signori Caselli and Crepi to be classed along with Montgolfier. The altitude they reached was about the same as that attained by him. What a sight it must have been to look down on the "Prince of Mountains" with his diadem of snow!

The American Federation of Labor has announced officially that it is not going to undertake the organization of an independent political party. That is well. But it announces that it will suggest legislation that will be of advantage to labor. That is unobjectionable. These announcements are timely and will allay any apprehension that the Federation intended to become an important if not dominant factor in politics. It will tend to give it a better standing in the public mind.

Conditions in the First Utah battery, E. A., are deplorable if not disgraceful. There seems to be little esprit de corps or patriotism in it. That some of the officers should be asked to resign shows a very bad state of affairs. In the Spanish war the Utah battery was the pride of every citizen of Utah and its record is today. It gave the State a national name and prestige of which it might well be proud. That fame and prestige should be an inspiration to the battery today, but it seems not to be. From all reports the condition of the battery is one that sadly needs mending, and that without delay.

Announcement is made of the appearance at Oklahoma City of a new journal called L'America Esperantisto, which, as the name implies, is published in the interest of Esperanto. The friends of this artificial tongue claim that it is gaining headway rapidly. Concerning Esperanto, the London Spectator says: "It is remarkably easy to learn, owing to the irreducible minimum of grammar and the simplicity of its vocabulary. We see no reason why this really simple and scientific language should not afford to the tourist and merchant exactly what they need for communication with foreigners."

NEW RUSSIAN NOVELIST.

Exchange.

The new Russian novelist who writes under the name of Ivan Stranik, is in private life Mme. Antichoff, her husband being a professor in the University of Kiev. She writes French entirely, because, as she explains, she liked to say freely what she thought, a thing impossible up to this year in Russia. It was Mme. Antichoff who introduced Gorky to the west by translating a collection of his tales into French. Her own books, which number about a half-dozen, are designed to give an idea of life in Russia among the upper and middle classes and of the Russians outside of Russia.

INDOORS AND OUTDOORS.

World's Work.

"Home is the most dangerous place I ever go to," remarked John Muir, the famous geologist and naturalist. He was on the rain returning from Arizona to the west by train, after the earthquake. "As long as I camp out in the mountains, without tent or blankets, I get along very well; but the minute I get into the house and have a warm bed and begin to live on fine food, I get into a draft, and the first thing I know I am coughing and sneezing and threatened with pneumonia and altogether miserable. Outdoor is the natural place for a man. Walk where you please, when you like, and take your time. The mountains won't hurt you, nor the exposure. Why, I can live out for a year for bread and tea and occasionally a little tobacco. All I need is a sack for the bread and a pot to boil water in, and an ax. The rest is easy."

TREATIES AND STATE RIGHTS.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Japan has been assured by our department of state of the firm intention of the government to secure full compliance on the part of all state and local authorities with the provisions of the treaty between her and the United States. Secretary Metcalf has been sent to San Francisco to inquire into all the facts of the Japanese "school segregation" incident and impress upon the board of education the necessity of bringing its rules into conformity with the guaranteed rights of the Japanese residents. All this indicates definite recognition of the fact that treaties are "laws of the land" which are not to be lightly or cavalierly treated by any public body. But in view of former unpleasant experiences of the federal government, the average citizen is doubtless wondering exactly how state and local authorities can be compelled to observe treaty obligations assumed by the nation as a whole.

ROOM FOR THE IMMIGRANT.

Boston Herald.

Immigration to the United States is expected to reach 1,400,000 this year. Good! And for two reasons. Big influx means that America is prosperous and they wouldn't come. Secondly, we need all the hands we can get. So long as we keep out the diseased, the paupers, the avowed enemies of government and those who look like victims or instruments of crime or vice, let them come. The American colonies were founded by immigrants. The continent has been subdued and the wilderness made to "blossom as the rose" by immigrants and their descendants. There would have been no "land of the free and home of the brave" without immigrants. There is room and work for more. Let them come.

JUST FOR FUN.

Help! Help!

My Bonnie lies under the auto.
My Bonnie wears under the car.
Please send to the garage for some one.

For 'tis longsome up here where I am,
—Washington Star.

Not Intentional.

Customer (lifting something out with his spoon)—What have you been putting in this chicken broth?
Walter (closely inspecting it)—That seems to be a piece of chicken, sir. Accidents will happen now and again.
—London Tit-Bits.

An Indication.

Thingumbob—Well, I guess old Jigger is beginning to make his pile.
Meddler—What makes you think so?
Thingumbob—He's been going around lately blowing about how much happier a man is when he's poor.
—Philadelphia Press.

Hated of Scamped Pictures.

The late Edward Rosewater, founder and editor of the Omaha Bee, had a sincere love of art, says the Buffalo Enquirer. He hated pictures that indicated scamped work—scattered, haphazard pictures that were merely rough-and-ready sketches, and so-called portraits that bore no likeness to their originals.

A young painter showed Mr. Rosewater one day a portrait of a mutual friend.

"That a portrait of Smith?" the editor

exclaimed. "I'd never have known it."
"Oh," the artist exclaimed, "I didn't try for a likeness, you know. I tried for an effect—an effect in gray."
"I know a man in New York," said Mr. Rosewater, "who had his portrait painted last year. It cost him \$4,000, and he was very proud of it. When it came home he showed it to his cook."
"Well, Mary," he said, "how do you like this portrait?"
"Sure, sir," said the cook, "it's lovely. It's beautiful, it's divine."
"And, of course," said my friend, "you know who it is?"
"Oh, of course, I do, sir," said the cook. "Of course, of course." As she spoke she kept drawing nearer to the picture, studying it more and more closely. "Of course, sir," she said, "it's you or the mistress." —Ex.

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