# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## DRIFTWOOD.

A driftwood for when day is dead
If you have dreamed your dreams by night,
You know the sweetest thing there is
In lonely moments of depression.

Pray light it in the twilight dim,
Pray as the sun throws best of him
Soft shadows over the snowy fence
Which wraps the buried earth in peace.

The mingling lights, white, without,
With colorful shades will pass to and fro,
The ghosts of memory, sad and cold,
And with bright forms your vision fill.

While dazzling tongues of gold and blue,
Or scarlet, green and violet hue,
All beaming into rainbow form,
Fill you with wonder whence they come.

And ah! if over in the night
Your eye hath watched the strange, weird light
That follows as a vessel's wake,
Winding along like every snake—

A line of beauty, sense deep,
That to the surface falls would creep—
'Tis only now for you to dream
The driftwood's bitterness above.

Was caught and pressed in each month
While gazing through it, for beneath,
A phantom presence! had there still,
To dance and glimmer as he will.

At length a stronger flame subdues
Its one rich glow the varying hues,
While at its base ash, ugsted, lies
Yet we'll we find—the "life of gold."
—Harpers May in Cape Cod Times.

### One Kind of Selfishness.

There are many phases of selfishness—and perhaps the most trying of the various manifestations of this fault of faults is not recognized under that name at all. What is called sensitiveness, however, is very often nothing but selfishness pure and simple—a morbid, miserable form, too—making the person herself and every one around her uncomfortable. A frank, generous, unselfish nature is not forever on the lookout for slights and unkindnesses on the part of others. What can be more trying than a person who is continually having her feelings hurt, who magnifies every hasty, unintentional word into a grievance, brooding thereon until it assumes exaggerated proportions?

What can be more distinctly, morbidly selfish and self seeking than such a disposition? Yet people of that temperament seldom if ever properly diagnose their troubles, but if they are honest they must acknowledge that they are continually thinking of themselves and of the relations of others to them. These people are generally well meaning and easy to please, not realizing that they are not living for others but only for themselves by thus indulging their "feelings" and hypersensitiveness.—New York Tribune.

### Mirrors Made of Wood.

In Germany wood with a mirror polish is coming into use as a substitute for metal in the finishing of ornamental work. In order to make the wood susceptible to a polish of this order it must first be submitted to a bath of caustic alkali for two days, the bath being kept at a temperature of 175 degs. Fahr. all the while. Next it is soaked in a solution of hydrosulphate of calcium for from twenty-four to thirty-nine hours. The third dip is into a bath of concentrated solution of sulphur. The final dip is into a solution of acetate of lead at a temperature of 100 degs.

After being thoroughly dried the wood is ready to have the metallic surface imparted to it, which is done by giving it a rubbing with finely powdered lead, tin or zinc. Wood treated in the above manner, it is said, will take a polish almost equal to that so often imparted to steel, silver or nickel.—St. Louis Republic.

### Culture in Boston.

"Is it," wondered a New York woman just returned from Boston, "because of the use of the sounds of 'a' and 'o' which we are accustomed to associate with cultivated speech that Boston salesswomen seem such refined and attractive persons? They seem a race of gentlewomen, and it was a positive pleasure to be served by them. I noticed also that their hands and nails were beautifully kept, and many of them really did wear eyeglasses. As to that, however, I got in two different horse cars whose drivers had a very scholarly look from the same cause, and a sign posted conspicuously on Boston Common read, 'Professor Brown, Artistic Bootblack.' I begin to believe the stories of the culture of the masses in Boston."—New York Times.

### Character Shown in Thumbs.

There is as much character in the thumbs of people as in their faces. A long first joint of the thumb indicates will power; a long second joint indicates strong logical or reasoning power; a wide, thick thumb indicates strong individuality, while a broad nob at the end of the thumb is a sure indication of obstinacy. The thumb is the characteristic feature of the human hand, a characteristic in which it differs from the hand of the monkey, and of all parts of the hand no one is so strongly individual or reliable as the thumb.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Arabs, when they wish to pronounce their most forcible malediction, say, "May thy soul know no more rest than the hat on the head of a European!" The hats of kings and emperors must have been specially in their minds when they framed this curse.

William Kinshoe, an Englishman, kept his corns accurately measured and dressed himself, saddled and bridled his horse, threw sledge hammers and did other seemingly impossible things with his toes.

Careful investigations show that in ordinary flames charged with common salt the yellowness is due to iron from metallic sodium and not to the unincorporated molecules of chloride of sodium.

Who knows that the time may not yet come when small boys in this country will gather sunflower seeds at the circus just as they now consume the festive and wholesome goober?

### Joker, Then Philanthropist.

The late Dr. S. G. Howe during his student life at Brown university was more distinguished for fun and practical joking than for scholarship. Perhaps not one of his college associates anticipated that their frolic in fellowship would become an eminent philanthropist. For when he graduated he left behind a reputation for skill in breaking up the dull routine of college life which survived for years. Mr. Sanborn, in his biography of Dr. Howe, tells an anecdote which shows the impression he left behind him. Some years after Dr. Howe had left college, and after he had become favorably known to the public, he was in Providence attending the annual commencement.

The venerable Dr. Messer, who had been president of the university while Howe was a student, was then living in retirement. Howe thought he would call on him and apologize for the trouble he had given him while in college and for the many interruptions to his night's repose.

The venerable ex-president received his caller with evident marks of distrust, and though he asked him to be seated he himself took a seat at a respectful distance. Dr. Howe began his apology and the good old man moved his chair a little farther back. "Doctor," said he, explaining the movement, "I'm afraid of you yet. I'm afraid there will be a surprise under my chair before I leave it."

### Human Relics of Pompeii.

In the months at Pompeii we preserved the most horrid and pathetic relics of the last days of the doomed city. Early in 1863 the workmen who were helping to excavate an immense palace struck into a cavity in the lava, the nature of which, of course, was a mystery. Without breaking further into it they poured plaster of paris down the crevices that were already opened, and as soon as the plaster had hardened, the crust of lava was carefully removed, and lo! the form of a human being in his last struggles was revealed! The sinews and form of the person were perfectly preserved, showing plainly that he had been buried in boiling lava, which had hardened about him. The intervening 1,800 years and the heat of the lava needed had reduced the body to a handful of dust, but the lava had left a cast natural as life.

Since that time several bodies have been reproduced—some them with the features so perfectly preserved as to show the expression of the face. In one of the plaster casts parts of the clothes are embedded. Two female casts which are clasped in each other's arms have been called "The Mother and Daughter." Persons who have seen this ghastly cast say that there is nothing in all Pompeii so touching than the utter despair depicted upon the face of the "mother."—St. Louis Republic.

### When Men Love First.

A certain famous novelist, as he himself grew older year by year, added in his memoirs to the age of his heroes. If his life had not been cut off untimely in a generous middle age he would perhaps have lengthened the age of his desperate lovers till they rounded out a good century.

Violet Fane says that men never love most profoundly till they have passed their youth. In order to fall in love is the best purpose—in short, to get the most satisfaction out of the thing—man must have had opportunity to clear up "memories, regrets, the experience which furnishes the opportunity for making comparisons." She herself would "certainly not seek for the constant and devoted heart beneath the striped flannels of an undergraduate, any more than within the frills bodice of the new schoolgirl." The whole matter of falling in love she considers to be "centered in the inappreciable age of the heart."

If this is true, then sweet sixteen and twenty-one must henceforth take a back seat. Their fits of falling in love are only the crude and violent experimenting of nature that have not yet found themselves, and therefore such fits are not worth a moment's consideration. The true lovers, the intense lovers are the ones, not too young, who have sounded their own depths and found their beds. We report this view of a very important matter to our readers without making any recommendations either way.

### What Stood Thicks of Russia.

It is curious to note that W. T. Stead, radical though he is, rather inclines to sympathize with the czar in considering the troubles of Anglo-Russia. He does not believe that Mr. George Kennan himself would introduce the American constitution and the Australian ballot into a country where not one man in ten can read and not one citizen in a hundred would have the remotest idea what to do with his vote if he had one. Neither would any intelligent Englishman try to introduce that parliamentary system, which some persons choose to believe is even now breaking down before the eyes of the inhabitants of Great Britain.

What they can anybody do? Heaven knows! Mr. Stead says he came away from Russia with a keen sense of the powerlessness of the czar. Alexander III is evidently in earnest in trying to wipe out the evils that he believes with all his soul must afflict Russia. These are three—the Jew, famine and typhus—and the heretical inroads of Protestant Nonconformists upon the ancient and orthodox Greek church. These evils the czar desires with passionate earnestness to extirpate.

The czar, as he would be the first to confess, is often as powerless to effect reforms and check abuses as he is to modify the laws of the Medes whose or never, the decrees of the Persian infallible. Those who have never been to Russia do not realize the immensity of its area, and the structure of those elements which, in America and England, are relied upon to defeat excesses and to initiate reforms. There is an inertia about that great mass which is like the vis inertiæ of a glacier. If anybody or Prince Kropotkin or George Kennan were czar tomorrow, they would be sure to also to transform the country or scatter the evils which are continually being laid up to the execration of the world that M. de Lesseps or Edison would be able to quicken the earth at the Horse plaster.

The Cross of the Legion of Honor has been conferred upon forty-four women—for most cases for heroic services as nurses, but occasionally for acts of patriotism and daring, as well as for achievements in science and the arts.


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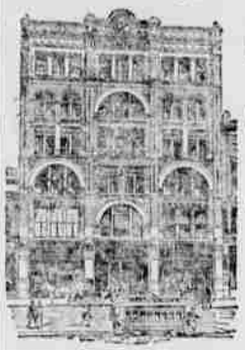

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