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FOR INDEPENDENT THOUGHT.

One of the great needs of our time is independent thought in political parties. Too many ally themselves with a party, but they are too busy, or too indolent, to think for themselves. They have a peculiar conception of party loyalty. They seem to think that they are loyal as long as they follow blindly without a question, without reason. They accept any falsehood that comes from their prompters, as gospel truth and reject as deadly error the truth that may be spoken by an opponent. That they conceive to be party loyalty. It is illustrated abundantly in the so-called "American" party where any falsehood about the "Mormons," no matter how absurd, how unreasonable, is accepted and used as campaign ammunition.

We need voters with independence of thought. It has been said that a strong healthy party of opposition is needed to restrain the excesses of a dominant party, and this proposition nobody disputes. But it is as necessary for the health of every party to have independent thinkers in its ranks. There can be no enlightened discussion in any assembly unless there is a "persuadable element." As the Chicago Record-Herald remarks, "the debates and arguments rise to a high plane when leaders and cabinets must satisfy and convince independent and thinking men among their own followers. Blind following begets arrogant and impatient leadership, suppression of discussion as "waste of time;" and such things, in turn, beget obstruction on the part of the opposition, stringent rules for restricting debate, closure, etc. The persuadable element in the party keeps it intellectually fit and morally strong. It exercises care; it must deliberate, ponder, weigh consequences, redeem pledges. It must produce reasons for the things it proposes to do—and good reasons, that will bear ventilation and inspection."

This is true. American government presupposes independence of thought and freedom of discussion as a means of arriving at truth, and then united action in the light obtained. Despotic governments do not admit of free thought and discussion. They are founded on despotism, the very opposite of self-government.

THE PARTY OF PROGRESS.

The Tribune claims, though with somewhat feeble voice, that its party is the only party of progress. It has made Salt Lake what it is.

We notice that this claim is made in general terms only. No effort is made at specification. We are not told, for instance, that so much paving has been done which would not have been done had any other party been in control. And as long as the organ cannot point to a single foot of paving, or a single building, except the stockade, as a monument to "American" progress, its claims are foolish.

"American" progress was shown years ago. The people here voted a bond issue for the extension of the water system, at a time when this seemed absolutely necessary for the growth of the City. Several dry years made it clear that the water supply was insufficient and had to be increased before there could be any considerable addition to the City's population. Did the "American" party prove itself progressive at that time? Not much. Its representatives tried to defeat the project by court proceedings, though more water was the cry of every citizen. They opposed the bonds and declared that the City had acquired no water by the negotiations. The people of Salt Lake were progressive. They demanded improvements. The "American" party leaders were the obstructionists.

At present they claim all the credit and The Tribune talks as if Tom Kearns and other "Americans" had donated a few million dollars for paving and sidewalks.

PARENTS AND SCHOOLS.

An Illinois woman contributes to "Farm and Home" some fine suggestions as to how parents may aid teachers in the training of school children.

She thinks the parent should be in sympathetic mental touch with the school. He should visit it often, not to hear a special program, but to make himself familiar with the daily routine of instruction and discipline. She admits that this will require time and some mental preparation, for few parents know much about modern methods, which seem very strange—the A, B, C's unlearned, number work taught by use of objects, geography by journeys and devices, grammar and language by use of it (writing on familiar and interesting subjects); in short, everything by the natural mental law, "ideas before words."

But inasmuch as fathers read and study about methods of stock raising, on improving soil and crops and mothers are up-to-date on poultry, fancy work, art and dressmaking, she argues that both should give some special attention to that higher art of becoming competent judges of their children's mental growth.

By means of a little intelligent reading, Mrs. Ballard believes that a radical change of attitude on the part of parents toward schools can be brought about. For this purpose the reading of some good educational journal is recommended. The city and county superintendents or the principals of schools will always be able to recommend a live paper on the subject of teaching. Mrs. Ballard says this:

"The teacher, often discouraged by lack of appreciation and co-operation will experience an uplift, will feel an incentive to greater effort. Nature study, especially agricultural subjects, is proving a mutual bond of interest in the home and school. It enthuses the pupil with a love for the farm, and instils within him a desire to get closer to nature and to become an intelligent farmer or farmer's helpmate. Nature study and lessons on agriculture put the parent more in sympathetic touch with the school than any and all other subjects combined. They pave the way to intelligent co-operation which is the lever at the command of the patrons. Until they grasp and use it vigorously, our schools will remain practically in their present condition, though consolidation, township system, improved text books and higher grades are sighed galore. Speed the day when the product of our schools shall be citizens trained to exercise common sense and worthy of their grand inheritance, 'The land of the free and the home of the brave.'"

Parents need to know that changes in the schools rarely, if ever, arise from the schools themselves. These institutions change slowly; they are very conservative; for many reasons changes are harder to make in school methods than in other affairs.

If, therefore, the people really desire improved schools, they must first know what the schools are now doing, then they will be prepared to suggest and introduce the remedial measures.

THE IMPROVEMENT ERA.

"Social Conduct," is the title of President Joseph F. Smith's editorial in the October Era, and it will awaken many reflections on that subject useful to young and old alike. A romantic descriptive article on "The Land of Pagahrit" by Albert R. Lyman makes one marvel that such a wild land should exist at this late day in our own Utah. It will interest those who love the "Call of the Wild." Frank J. Hewlett gives some interesting matter on the "Gateway to China," and Solomon F. Kimball in an illustrated article tells of the "Relief of Circleville," an Indian war episode in the early sixties. Among the religious articles are "Essential Knowledge," by Wm. Halls, "Are We Drifting or Going Headlong to Destruction," by President John L. Herrick of the Western States mission, and a poem, "The Last Witness," by James H. Hart. Among the twenty-three illustrations are a page portraits of Hon. Moses Thatcher, the new church building in London, a cliff dwelling near Grayson, Utah, Lake Pagahrit, ancient Aztec ruins near Pinedale, Arizona, and the great Chinese wall. The number has twenty contributors, each of whom has something worth reading. The first number of Vol. 13 will be out in a few days, and from the advance sheets will be the most instructive and valuable number ever issued. It will have an attractive new cover, new cover type throughout, and will contain 100 pages, an increase of 16 pages, with many beautiful illustrations. Among the contributors are President Joseph F. Smith, Dr. James E. Talmage, Elizabeth R. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith, Jr., Prof. John Henry Evans, William George Jordan, and many others.

A HOLY WAR.

The Spaniards do not relish the idea of being involved in another war, even if it is only with the barbarians of Morocco. The Spanish government undertook to send a punitive expedition to Africa, but, notwithstanding the many reports of Spanish triumphs, the Moors seem to refuse to stay subdued. The Spaniards now have 50,000 men in the field and 15,000 more on the way, and the Moors are about to proclaim a holy war. No wonder that the home government is worried about the situation. Reverses in Africa might mean a revolt and the proclamation of a republic at home.

Fear is also entertained that if the Moors proclaim a holy war, other European powers will be involved. Spain alone would be powerless if the entire Mohammedan population should rise. France, it is pointed out, has a force of 53,000 men, all of whom would be summoned to action if the threat of a holy war were fulfilled. Germany would be glad to take it for granted that Great Britain may have authorized Spain to carry the campaign beyond its original borders until it shall constitute an invasion from which Great Britain may obtain an enlarged sphere of influence, for this would give the Kaiser another opportunity to interfere. Europe is so involved in Morocco that a holy war would in all probability draw the various powers to the scene of trouble.

Whenever Mohammedans are in sore straights because of their enemies they proclaim a holy war, which means a war for the defense of their faith. When such a war is declared every Mohammedan is expected to respond by giving all the money and other property he has for the maintenance of the army, as well as his personal services under the flag. When a holy war is proclaimed, fanaticism generally rises to fever heat. It is difficult to foresee just what would be the consequences of such a proclamation at this time.

TAMMANY RULE.

Tammany rule in New York furnishes an illustration of the manner in which the public is fleeced when greed controls municipal offices. Collier's Weekly of Oct. 9 tells the story of the stealing that has been going on in that city under the pretense of advertising.

According to that story New York paid in 1908, the enormous sum of $13,317,59 for advertising alone. Of this money, we are told, about a quarter of a million went to private individuals. It seems that the city had an official who had nothing else to do than to attend to this business. He testified under oath, before an investigating committee, that he drew a salary of $100 a month but was doing no work for the city.

One paper, the Tammany Times, which is the organ of Tammany Hall, and devotes its columns to misrepresentation in the interest of the partisan political machine, whose leaders have been growing rich at the expense of the city treasury, was paid for city advertising in 1908 the sum of $14,616.80, or more than the total paid to the "World," "American," "Press," "Evening Journal," and "Evening Post." The Securities Advertising company, which collected about 30 per cent commission for placing this advertising, was a partnership arrangement between William G. Foster and W. J. Kenny. Kenny is a Tammany politician. Foster, while his business was under investigation by the legislative committee, left the State, and all efforts to get at the books of the company were frustrated.

If "American" methods in this City were investigated, the result might be equally startling. For instance, in 1904, the people authorized the City Council to borrow a million dollars to be used for the improvement of the water and sewer systems. In the appeal the council estimated the cost of a conduit from Cottonwood to Parley's canyon at $350,000, and the people by vote authorized the construction at that figure. The contract, however, was actually let at about $232,000. Then the "American" spoilsmen obtained control. And they paid $443,825.93 for a job that was contracted for at $232,000! Would not an investigation disclose some interesting transactions?

Again, the tax-payers authorized the expenditure of $200,000 for certain work at Utah Lake. That was the sum asked for. But the so-called "American" crowd, when they obtained control, spent only $8,913.25 of this money on the work for which it was borrowed. It is a pity that an investigation was never made into the financial methods of the party now in control.

Could love please find out a way to make the cost of living less?

Where ignorance is bliss is a good place for the boomer to begin.

"Is the college girl a mollycoddle?" asks an exchange. Not much; she is a peach.

Give an aspirant for enduring fame enough newspaper space and he will kill himself.

Commander Peary's real grievance is that his right of precedence was infringed upon.

The chief reason for wanting one's enemy to write a book is that it keeps him busy for quite a while.

President Taft is not following a strict diet on his travels but he is strictly following his program.

The National Geographic society would put the University of Copenhagen at the mercy of the waives.

The man who can face the music (?) that goes around in the street car is not brave but positively reckless.

The Washington Herald is three years old. It is a good three-year-old and has lost most of its coltishness.

Dr. Cook says that he found Philadelphia a live town. There is a vulnerable statement for his enemies to attack.

We have been asked what an "igloo" is. It is an abstract noun, or at least it is said that supplies were abstracted from Cook's.

Willie Boy's end would have been very spectacular had there been any one to witness it. It was very much like Harry Tracy's.

The sequel showed that Pittsburg was toying with Detroit up to the last game, when Pittsburg showed Detroit how baseball should be played.

Evidently ex-Minister Designate Crane does not believe that a diplomat should be a good man sent abroad to lie for the benefit of his country.

If the citizens of Salt Lake want their city to continue to serve as a terrible example, let them continue the Pseudo "American" party in power.

Governor Willson of Kentucky doesn't propose to give the night riders any quarter. Probably they wouldn't accept it as they don't do things by halves.

It is said that the Illinois delegation will fight Speaker Cannon when Congress meets next December. The delegation probably will prove again the truth of the saying that heaven is on the side of the heaviest Cannon.

Judge Pritchard of Indiana holds that the bill legalizing Sunday baseball is unconstitutional. It is true, and 'tis a pity 'tis true, that the more unconstitutional a thing is the more popular it seems to be.

At El Paso President Taft informed the interpreter who began reading the address of welcome to him to Juarez in English that he had understood it perfectly. So the President speaks Spanish. Now he can read Don Quixote in the original. Happy, fortunate man!

Peary has not always had the opinion of Cook that he now has. Seventeen years ago Cook was a member of Peary's Arctic expedition, and in his report this explorer said:

"The report would be incomplete without an acknowledgment of my obligation to Dr. Cook, patient and skilful surgeon, indefatigable worker, earnest student of the peculiar people among whom we lived, he has obtained, I believe, a record of the tribe unsmirchable in ethnological archives."

Cook must have changed since then, or perhaps Peary has.

PASSING OF DRUGS.

Washington Post.

Admitting that the advance in medical science has greatly reduced the death rate, Dr. W. D. Foster, president of the American Institute of Homeopathy, takes the profession to task for almost abandoning the study of drugs and their use in practice. He speaks of a tendency to "therapeutic nihilism," and tells his colleagues, especially such as are not the homeopathic kids, that it is their duty to fight disease with every weapon available, with hygiene and to other preventive means, but also with the resources of the now neglected materia medica. Hardly a physician will plead guilty to the fault of which the leader of the Hahnemanns in America convicts the whole profession. It is true, and most medical men will rather boast of than apologize for it, that there is now far less dosing of patients than there was even 10 years ago. But the old standbys, like calomel, quinine, bromides, strychnia and morphia are given consistently when indicated. The problem of setting the patient upon his feet does call, as Dr. Foster says, for all the resources of the healer's skill. The fact is, however, that the profession now has not only more knowledge, but more ammunition with which to combat disease. Where drugs were the main reliance of the practitioner, they are coming to be like a battleship's secondary battery—useful, but less essential. Would any modern medical man send bacteriology and surgery to the rear, to restore the old army of bottles and pill boxes to the firing line?

SOMETHING MUST GIVE WAY.

New York Globe.

Sooner or later Japan's Manchurian policy, the guarantees of Chinese integrity in Manchuria and the "open door" policy must be adjusted each to the others. When that time comes something will have to give way. Either Japan will have to curtail her ambitions or the guarantees and the open door policy will have to be seriously qualified.

PREFERENCE FOR GERMAN.

Collier's Weekly.

Various young men have asked why we think the study of German so important. The reason is, that Germans are leaders in many very important departments of modern thought, and much of the most valuable contemporary material in science, history, philosophy, and economics is accessible only to those able to read that language.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

By George F. Butler, A.M., M.D.

It is well now and then to review in our minds all that should cause us joy and thankfulness, to rise above the "ugly" things in life and look out into the beautiful world. And beauty and goodness are here for us all if we look for them; to inspire contentment if we need it, and to make us thankful, trustful, happy. Round out your being; get into harmony with the universe; seek to acquire that calmness which will spare you the petty frictions of life. Since it is the little interior friction, the mental worry and the nervous tension which wears us out, we should pause and let down the tension, take off the strain. Inner poise we must have if we would be outwardly at peace; and poise is a balance of opposites, a nice adjustment such that we move along with the stream of life, instead of against it. We are neither impatient nor indolent. We are not trying to manage the universe. We are not pushing society. Nor are we urging our own life forward in a willful way. We are taking the pace at which the universe is going, content to let God take his own time. Thus we move out to measure deeds of expression, service and love. This is not only the secret of health, but the secret of wise life as a whole.

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

By E. J. Edwards.

A HANDSHAKE THAT LED TO A CABINET PORTFOLIO.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Mr. Edwards ("Holland") during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil war. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards's notebook—hitherto unpublished New News of Yesterday garnered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions of the "human interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

Some men—Philander C. Knox, for example—have become presidential cabinet members through their possession of certain peculiar qualifications. Others have been given portfolios in full payment of political debts or party service. Thomas L. James, postmaster-general under Garfield, is, perhaps, the only man who ever won a cabinet chair with a handshake. How he did this all unconsciously has never been printed before so far as I can ascertain.

In the second administration of General Grant it was deemed expedient, for business reasons, to name a new postmaster for New York City. President Grant requested Senator Roscoe Conkling to suggest somebody who would make just the kind of postmaster that the metropolis needed. "Of course," said the president, "he must be a Republican, but he must be a good business man as well."

This was putting a somewhat difficult responsibility upon Senator Conkling. If it had been the beginning of Grant's administration, the senator undoubtedly would have had in mind for postmaster some Republican politician of prominence. But it was the mid-year of Grant's second term, and at that time it was certain that Senator Conkling's friends would ask that he be nominated for president at the next Republican national convention. So it became necessary for the senator to find a good Republican—one who would stand in line with the party in New York state in favoring Conkling's nomination—and at the same time be a man of first class administrative ability.

Senator Conkling journeyed to New York several times to talk with the politicians about the postmastership. None of them, however, was able to help him. He could find plenty of good Republicans who would have been glad to take the office, but not one of them had any business standing. On the other hand, there were several capable business men whose names were suggested, but not one of them knew much about politics.

On the last of these trips Senator Conkling lunched with "Tom" Murphy, then collector of the port of New York. Utterly unlike as Conkling and Murphy were, yet the warmest friendship had been established between them.

At the luncheon Conkling and Murphy discussed and dismissed from consideration several names brought up as possible material for the postmastership. Then, luncheon over, the two men strolled down Wall street towards the custom house. Conkling walking with his customary long stride and certainly conscious of the fact that many persons stopped to look at him and say to one another, "That is Roscoe Conkling."

It was the purpose of the two to enter the custom house, but just before they reached the broad steps leading up to the doors Collector Murphy stopped and, gently twitching the senator's coat sleeve, caused him to stop also. Then, directing Conkling's gaze to a man who was standing on the top step and shaking hands with some one, Murphy exclaimed, as one inspired:

"Senator, there's your man!"

"I see no man except Tom James," replied Conkling.

"Well, he is the man I mean," retorted Murphy. "He's a good enough politician, he has a wonderful knack of making friends of everybody with that handshake of his, and he's one of the best deputies the custom house ever had."

Conkling pondered a moment. "It occurs to me, Mr. Murphy, that there may be some elements in your suggestion worth considering. I will give the matter careful consideration, but," he added, "let it be confidential to you and me for the present."

Together the two men mounted the steps, the senator stopping to shake hands with Mr. James. Then he passed on to Collector Murphy's office.

Three days later Mr. James was walking up Broadway with a friend. The time was about 5 of the afternoon. Passing a newspaper office, the friend glanced casually at its bulletin board. Then he caught his companion by the arm.

"Hello, do you see that, Tom James?" he cried. "Look at that announcement."

Mr. James looked, and read: "President Grant sent to the senate this afternoon the name of Deputy Collector Thomas L. James as postmaster of New York."

"Well, that's news to me," gasped Mr. James. And it was. Neither the president, Senator Conkling, nor Collector Murphy had even so much as hinted to Mr. James that he was being considered for the postmastership.

Nor did he learn, until after he had become postmaster, how his handshake had gained him political prominence. Yet when his business administration of the New York postoffice led to his selection as postmaster-general by President Arthur, perhaps Gen. James allowed himself a few minutes leisure in which to marvel at the way in which his handshaking method of making friends had ultimately made of him a national governmental figure.

Great Reductions in Carpet Size Rugs at Z. C. M. I.

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9 ft. by 12 ft. Rundhar Wilton Rug, regular price	$52.50, now $41.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Ventnor Wilton Rug, regular price	$47.50, now $38.50
9 ft. by 12 ft. Wilton Velvet Rug, regular price	$37.50, now $29.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Regular Wilton Velvet, regular price	$30.00, now, $24.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Cordo Velvet, regular price	$27.50, now $21.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Body Brussels, regular price	$35.00, now $28.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Imperial Bigelow Axminster, regular price	$50.00, now $39.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Regular Axminster, regular price	$32.50, now $25.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Regular Axminster, regular price	$30.00, now $23.50
9 ft. by 12 ft. Roxbury Tapestry, regular price	$27.50, now $21.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Smith's 10 wire Tapestry, regular price	$25.00, now $19.50
9 ft. by 12 ft. Smith's 9 wire Tapestry, regular price	$22.00, now $17.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Smith's 8 wire Tapestry, regular price	$17.50, now $14.00
9 ft. by 12 ft. Best Fibre, regular price	$16.00, now $12.00
8 ft. 3 in. by 10. ft. 6 in. Ventnor Wilton, regular price	$42.50, now $34.00
8 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft. 6 in. Regular Axminster, regular price	$26.00, now $20.00
8 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft. 6 in. Saxony Rug, regular price	$24.00, now $19.00
8 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft. 6 in. Roxbury, regular price	$22.50, now $18.00
6 ft. by 9 ft. Ventnor Wilton Rugs, regular price	$28.00, now $22.00
6 ft. by 9 ft. Splendid quality Axminster, regular price	$16.75, now $13.00

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