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Lasting Effect

While evil example ever has had a bad effect, it may be doubted if any bad example has a more lasting or far-reaching effect than that of a writer of evil books or articles. Who can calculate the many, many who may be scandalized, may be led astray, who may be tainted in thought, by one bad or vicious book or one bad article?

A writer in the "Christmas Year," puts this very well in a sort of allegory of a writer who was consigned to Hell and there complained that his sufferings were worse than those of an unknown peasant-damned and doomed with him.

One of the infernal furies then appeared to him in all her wild and weird beauty, with whistling serpents nestling in her hair.

"Fool!" she blurted out, "how canst thou rebuke God's Providence? How canst thou equal thyself to this bandit? What is his crime compared to thine? Cruel and wicked as he was, his evil deeds have died with him. But although thy bones have been for a long time reduced into dust the sun never rises without having to give light to a new sorrow coming from thee! The virus of thy works, from lessening itself grows every day more and more mordant. Behold! Behold!"

And as in a panorama, she displayed the world to him:
"See those children, the shame and despair of their families! Who has poisoned their heart and their mind? Thou hast told them that state or church authority was only an evil dream. Thou hast caused them to sneer at marriage. Thou hast impelled them to break all social ties. Thou hast asserted that the ungodly only can deal with science. Behold! Drunken with the wine of thy doctrine, the whole land is full of murder, plunder and revolt! Because of thee it reels toward its ruin. Because of thee every drop of tears and blood is shed. And thou darrest to accuse the gods! Knowest thou not how many evils will come through thee in the future? Thy torments thou deservest; thy pains are measured by thy works."

And she went away smiling with a devilish smile.

Strong Men Needed.

"What is the matter? Our public men, as a class, seem to be deteriorating. At least, it appears that way to me. What is the matter?"

That question was asked at Albany the other day by a visitor who had not been at the State Capitol in several years but was fairly well acquainted with the legislators of ten and twenty years since.

While due allowance must be made because of individual prejudice and liking, it must be conceded that there is an apparent lowering of the standard of public men. Various reasons may be assigned for this condition. Some say it may be charged to the direct primary, that men are more concerned with answering

letters of constituents and then figuring how to be re-elected than they are in attending to affairs of public moment.

Governor Pothier, speaking before the Catholic Club in Providence, gives good advice when he says:—

"The State needs young men of character and of sound intellectual and moral attributes. The foundation of morality must be laid in religion. I really believe that the great need of today is a religious awakening. Industrialism and commercialism, with their intense activities, tend to weaken the religious spirit. It is not a healthy sign when churches are not well attended. When the devotional service is neglected for the theater and other amusements or the kind, it is a sign of a tendency towards frivolity and leads to decay. The trend, I fear, is not toward religion; and if this tendency is accentuated, the fibre of the nation will deteriorate, and we as a people will not be able to escape the dangers lurking in our social life, no more than did Rome, at the period of her decline when she found herself powerless to resist the northern invaders.

Catholics at Heart

According to a report in a San Francisco paper, over a thousand persons stood bareheaded in a public square in San Francisco while the leaders in the French Opera company, which were holding their winter season there and led by Jan Kubelik and David Bispham sang "Adeste Fideles."

The Western World comments as follows:—
"That multitude, singing 'the Adeste Fideles' in the streets of San Francisco was certainly uplifted in spirit when the people joined in the grand anthem which is heard on Christmas morning in every Catholic church and chapel throughout the world. No sublimer music can be found than that which the faith and devotion of Catholic composers have helped their genius to produce. The 'great heart' of mankind knows it and Christians of all creeds respond whenever they have an opportunity, to the solemn grandeur of Catholic music. There is nothing on earth more uplifting and inspiring than the beautiful anthems and prayers rendered in the Latin tongue in Catholic churches. The effect they produce upon the motley street crowd seems to prove that the whole world is Catholic at heart and must finally yield to the Catholic Church's appealing beauties.

Not only because they are sung in Latin but because of the inherent reverence in the very music, do the Catholic hymns impress mightily even those who do not believe as we do.

Be Generous!

While there is little doubt that the worst of the floods of 1913 has passed, it will be months yet before the material damages can be repaired and things placed as they were in localities like Dayton and Omaha.

For a few weeks, thousands of persons in the flooded territories will be homeless and workless. They will need the necessities of life.

Those of us who were not afflicted by the calamity should open our hearts and assist those who have been deprived of homes and livelihood.

Let us aid the sufferers by contribution of money, clothing and let us do it quickly. The Red Cross Society, the Chamber of Commerce, the fraternal organizations, all these agencies will see to it that your contributions will be forwarded and used to the best possible effect.

Charity is a cardinal virtue, especially in times like these. The stingy man, the grouch, is likely to be haunted for years to come if he does not open his heart and pocket-book in such a day and hour.

John N. Carlsle should have come to Rochester and looked over the roaring Genesee before he declared that the proposed storage reservoir was not needed either for power or to prevent floods.

"Golden Rule Kohler," does not seem to have practised what he preached.

New Experiment Among the Chinese

Fr. J. B. Sicard, P. F. M., a missionary at Luk-fung-yen, wishes to settle a community of Christians in the following manner:

"The time seems ripe," he says, "to execute a plan I have long had in mind, and that is to group a number of Christian families so that they could be free from the temptations of pagan neighbors.

"I have bought a piece of land large enough for a little village, and hope that the people can raise enough in their gardens to help support them. There are yet to be built the houses for the families, and we shall need also some farming implements, cattle and enough rice to last until the first harvest is reaped.

"There is no doubt that the village will flourish when once firmly established, but the beginning is hard, and I ask some help from the charitably inclined. The Christian Chinese are anxious to better their condition, and the means I have chosen seems the most practical. A little assistance will mean much at this trying moment.

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How Old is the Earth?
Sir George Darwin's statement at Cambridge that the late Lord Kelvin's estimate of the earth's age has been seriously vitiated by the discovery of radium since the calculation was made will meet with the entire approval of geologists. For many years physicists and geologists have been disputing on this matter, and the latter have utterly failed to make the facts of geology fit in with what they termed Lord Kelvin's "miserable allowance" of time. Now, however, that it is established that the earth has a large store of heat-producing radium and other radioactive substances, mathematics is able greatly to extend the "miserable allowance" a trifle of 20,000,000 years, and the 800,000,000 years necessary to account for the geologists' phenomena is no longer considered too big a draft on the bank of time. The Hon. Mr. Strutt has assigned a minimum age of 711,000,000 years for some archaic rocks from Canada he has examined.—Dundee Advertiser.

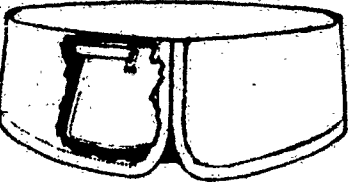
Broke Up the Game.
While finally persuaded his aunt to play train with him. The chairs were arranged in line, and then he said:
"Now, you be the engineer and I'll be the conductor. Lead me your watch and get up into your cab." He then hurried down the platform, timepiece in hand.
"Pull out there, you red headed, pie faced jay!" he shouted to the astonishment of the young woman.
"Why, Willie!" she exclaimed in amazement.
"That's right; chew the rag," he retorted. "Pull out. We're five minutes late already."
They have had to forbid his playing down by the tracks.—Illinois Central Employees' Magazine.

The Paradise Fish.
There flourishes in Chinese rivers and lakes a small fish remarkable for its brilliant coloring of crimson and blue. It is called the paradise fish. In the sunlight it shows in rainbow hues. The most interesting thing about this little fish is the nest made by the male of glutinous bubbles below the surface of the water and measuring up to six inches across. Here it places the eggs, some 200 in number, and mounts guard over them during incubation.

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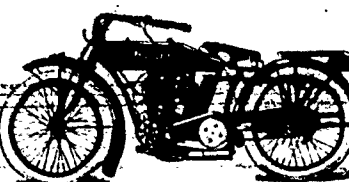


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