

OUR GRIEVANCES.

There are few persons who do not feel that they have a grievance of some sort which makes their lot just a little harder than their neighbor's, and because of this fact they lose heart and imagine at once that they are fighting against bigger odds than it is possible for them to overcome, says Charleston News and Courier. We are all more or less prone to compare the conditions of our own lives with those of other persons; we say if we had their opportunities we could do something worth while; we forget for the moment that just as we make the effort to cover up the obstacles which handicap us in our work, so, too, those whose opportunities we envy are most probably doing the same thing on their own account. If we stop to think of the thousand and one hardships which edge their way into our lives we would not make very much progress; the thing to do is to forget about them as far as we are able; to pass them by without a glance if possible; at any rate, if their presence is inevitable, to meet them bravely and never, never to fear them. Once we permit our hardships, our obstacles, our crosses—whatever we may call them—to make us afraid of them, they quickly get the upper hand and destroy hope, and even the ambition to overcome them.

It would be a good thing if humanity in general instead of senseless bickering with or belittling of others, would now and then make use of an approving remark to the relative or friend who is no longer as young or as clever as certain other of her acquaintances who just at present are basking in the limelight. Perhaps an over-scrupulous individual will stamp this as all nonsense, and emphatically declare that it isn't really honorable to stoop to flattery, but when all is said and done, how much better and wiser it is to pass on only those views or opinions that will make a bit happier (and incidentally a shade braver) the persons whom we meet either in a business way or socially.

Observers in Japan evidently feel that the movement for the political equality of men and women is progressing steadily, and unseasonably toward the participation of women in the political life of the empire. As one observer says: "It may be too much to expect that the day will soon return when woman will occupy the place in the councils of the nation that she did at the time of the Empress Jingo, or even in the Heian era; but the Japanese woman is beginning to evince an active interest in her possibilities, and every year is becoming more conspicuous in social and national affairs."

In various states the movement is spreading to fight the high cost of living. Investigations which definitely place the blame are well enough, but they are worse than useless if they are not followed up by definite and efficient action. The people demand this action and they will demand also a reckoning if relief is not afforded from fast growing intolerable conditions.

Wilhelmshaven, the great base fortress of the German navy, is to be converted into private commercial uses, with its proud national distinction and formidable power gone forever. Its passing is another illustration of the result of the German attempt to dominate the world.

Another way of looking at the vicious circle is this: Defective distribution encourages diminished production, and diminished production heightens the rewards of defective distribution. Therefore the law of supply and demand is not permitted to operate naturally.

The cables will not carry personal messages between this country and Germany, which will prevent many good Americans of German ancestry from telling Bernstorff precisely what they think of him.

Some of the ladies who want tobacco abolished from the face of the earth were too considerate to speak up with any great violence when everybody was engaged in sending smokes to the boys in France.

It must be decidedly annoying to Paris that every time they get ready to recognize Koltchak the bolshevik armies capture another town from him and drive him farther from Petrograd and Moscow.

The coal men are accused of frightening the public in order to make the public pay. Yet they are only repeating the warnings the fuel administration handed out all last season.

The two great dangers of the North Atlantic steamer lane are fog and ice. Perhaps travelers who are concerned about safety will take the blimps and leave to the adventurous steamers.

"Rent problem worries Berlin," says a headline, and it may be remarked that Berlin hasn't anything on the rest of us in that regard.

THROUGH THE CANAL.

The passage of the Panama canal by an American fleet of six dreadnaughts with an average time for each ship of ten hours, does not mean that we have already in Pacific waters a fleet that is capable of taking care of all possible comers from that direction. There are dreadnaughts, and formidable ones, in Pacific waters besides ours, says Boston Transcript. We cannot manage the whole future by so simple a maneuver as that. But the event does prove that the Panama canal has at last put its troubles with "slides" and siltings behind it, and that, thanks to the care, vigilance and patriotic devotion of our army engineers, it is the valid and practicable waterway that it was designed to be. It marks the canal's despite entrance upon its function as a part of the American coast lines. It is there, and it is adequate to its purpose. There is even some leeway for still larger fighting-craft. The gate is grandly open, and "the hand that oped the gate shall forever hold the key."

The cupidly of Germans of high rank would be amusing if they were not disgusting, says Youth's Companion. The royal princes are said to have plundered the wardrobe of Queen Elizabeth of Belgium in the palace of Laeken, where they had often been the guests of the king and queen; and when the kaiser himself learned that a Prussian regiment had stolen from the king of Serbia an especially beautiful silver-gilt dinner service that the king had used when he entertained foreign rulers, he demanded it as his personal booty. In May, 1917, the kaiser's minister of war declared officially that it was proper to loot both private and public property in the enemy's country.

Now that nearly all the transport work is finished, the nation has reason to congratulate itself on the magnificent work of the navy, which took an immense army to Europe and brought it back again without losing ships or men. And the Hunns were so sure of their submarines disposing of these ships that they sneered at the idea of our getting any troops successfully to France. They did not know that the American navy was equal to any demand upon it, and that in this war it was destined to establish an unequalled and unsurpassable record.

That one touch of nature makes the whole world kin is exemplified again in the desire of Cardinal Mercier on his visit to the United States to go to the Northwest to see the Indians of whom his uncle told him in his childhood. In this desire the great cardinal and the average small boy have a common bond of interest.

New dances are announced for the coming season. No information is available as to whether they are to be more decorous or more impudent. A reversal toward the proprieties is profoundly to be desired, as the police of the large cities have quite enough on hand at the present moment.

Young people who marry in airplanes going at 80 miles an hour are not quite as smart as young people were in our youthful days, and even at that we wouldn't have it understood that the youth of our generation had much sense when it was in the grip of the love bug.

Have Englishwomen also forgot how to make bread? The story of Liverpool without bread, but with plenty of flour, and the lord mayor's attempt to compromise with the striking bakers to prevent general starvation is more tragic than it seems.

An expert says it will take a billion dollars to put the trolley lines of the country on their feet, and if they do not get it pretty soon it will put the patron on his feet, even if he is not much of a pedestrian.

English noblemen are said to be leaving Britain to escape the high cost of living, and if they will make known their destination a good many Americans will be glad to emigrate to the same place.

The Italian army has not been demobilized yet, but since Italian soldiers are paid only 58 cents a month it is possible that the government is keeping them in service just because it likes to have them around.

There was a time when many serious protests were voiced against the use of corsets, but that was in the days of the wasp-waist and long before women began wearing 'em loose enough to turn around in.

It is said that a spirit of revenge will be instilled into the school children of Germany. Next to spirits of fun, the spirit of revenge is the most fruitful of woes.

The war department says that a report sent to it last fall has not arrived. However, patience should be exercised; possibly it was sent by mail.

THE TRUE EDUCATION.

The world is receiving very little benefit from its educational system these days, because materialism occupies the forefront of it. If this is desired, it is because he who desires hasn't the remotest idea what materialism is. He doesn't see any soul in education—only the body; only arithmetic, grammar, geography, methods for making money and living without work. It is not studies that warm the heart, but that tickle the brain, that fill so much of the educational area of today. Education is not to make scholars, but true men and women. That is what education means—the outflow of the divine spirit in a person, rather than the inflow of knowledge to stifle the spirit, says Ohio State Journal. It is easy enough to establish the reform and make feeling, instead of thinking, the object of education, for the brain without the heart is a positive evil to mankind. The way to secure the great reform is from the inside. Education is not a profession; it is a life. The people should not be guided by false ideas of education. They should insist upon the true idea.

The question of a federal divorce law or some unification of the state laws has been agitated by churchmen, judges, lawyers and legislators. Bills have been presented to congress on this subject, and amendments to the federal Constitution have been suggested. So far nothing definite has been done, either toward settling upon a satisfactory code to be adopted by the several states or in obtaining legislation upon the subject. The present conflicting laws in force in the several states have the effect, it is said, of affording opportunity for fraud and abuse of privileges and often result in legal difficulties for persons innocent of any ill intent.

London, like Paris, is generous in its expressions of praise for the American soldiers who participated in the great parade in celebration of peace. Better soldiers have never been seen in Europe than the doughboys. "Ah, your soldiers!" exclaimed a French veteran of rank to a correspondent. "Their marching is magnificent. It was the acme of military precision. It was 100 per cent perfect." But if their marching is good, so is their fighting, says Buffalo News. That, too, was 100 per cent perfect.

Germany is getting her cost of living down sharply, while in the United States we have the amazing spectacle of abundance and continued exploitation of consumers, says Houston Post. It is yet within the possibilities that Germany will be traveling on Easy street when we will be getting rich by printing paper money and blowing soap bubbles.

There are many theoretical programs for lowering the cost of living. There is much talk of redundant currency, excessive demand and world shortage. But the remedy for most of our economic ills can be summed up in this simple prescription: Go to work, stay at work and produce enough goods to supply the world's needs.

Shoes are scarce and therefore prices are high, we are told. And yet exports of shoes in the month of July were greater than for the whole of last year. Apparently we have plenty for Europe but mighty few for America.

From the way claims for damages by foreigners are piling up against the Mexican government it looks as if Mexico will have proportionately as heavy a bill to pay for her revolutions as Germany has to pay for her war.

An advocate of bolshevism says revolution may be put through easily in America by arming workers and disarming owners. Better hurry, for at present wages the workers in America soon will be the owners.

Latest figures on the cost of the war to the United States place the total somewhere around \$30,000,000,000, which to the average citizen doesn't seem much bigger than his monthly grocery bill.

German propagandists now said to be influencing Mexico to disorder are doubtless political hangers-on, slow to realize what has happened and loath to give up lucrative though reprehensible employment.

It's almost as difficult to understand all the moves in the telephone question as it is to keep track of the number of instances in which one gets the wrong number, if any.

Men's suits are to go up 100 per cent in value and have pickpocket-proof pockets. But will there be anything for the pickpocket-proof pockets to protect?

An agreement has been signed between the chambers of commerce of Brazil and the United States, but we haven't noticed that the price of coffee has gone down much yet.

At Odd Purposes

By BELVA M. THORNE

Martha Wolcott, bachelor, moved from Lisle to Clyde because he was in debt. Mrs. Althea Burrows, widow, remained in the latter town for the same reason. The coincidental similarity as to motive and environment went still further. Both were regarded as above the average as to wealth or the prospect of it. A third circumstance in this chain of sequence was the fact that Judge Alward Marsh, who had been Mrs. Burrows' attorney for ten years, became likewise the legal adviser of Mr. Wolcott.

Now neither of the two named made any pretense to the merest grace with opulence. Neither was over thirty, and both were healthy, respectable and good looking. Common rumor had it, however, that the fair widow had inherited a gold mine out West that might at any time open its vast store of wealth. When Mr. Wolcott came to Clyde there followed him the report that when a certain lawsuit he had been fighting for five years was decided, he would become the recipient of a royal fortune.

The facts were really these: The alleged mine had never produced so much as an ounce of the precious metal, and Mrs. Burrows had leased the fifty acres involved for grazing purposes at barely enough to meet taxes and water right installments. As to the lawsuit, Wolcott had expended nearly all he had in legal fees, and had hopelessly abandoned any anticipations of success in winning it.

As said, Wolcott had come to Clyde because he was in debt. Not that his Lisle creditors were manifesting any collection pressure, for he was a favorite with everybody, but, finding himself growing poorer and poorer, he resolved to get down to real work. He was a specialist in cattle diseases, and Clyde was the center of a large rich farming district.

It was at the office of Judge Marsh one day that Martha Wolcott met the charming widow. The observing old jurist's eyes twinkled as he sensed a mutual liking established between the two. It got to be so that Wolcott became a weekly visitor at the Burrows home. They were vastly pleased with each other and the prospective match met with the approval of their friends.

Mrs. Burrows had made some inquiry regarding Mr. Wolcott. It was to receive exaggerated intelligence as to the wonderful lawsuit that would place him so high above her in the way of wealth that her heart failed her. Wolcott did the same thing. He became despondent and hopeless when he heard about the undeveloped Goldconda in the Rockies which would make of Mrs. Burrows a social queen, who would naturally disdain the attentions of a poor and obscure individual like himself.

Wolcott began to curtail his calls upon Mrs. Burrows and the latter influenced by this and a realization of the vast gulf between them, tried to root out the love that might bring only disappointment and sorrow. They had not seen one another for two weeks, when they came face to face in the office of Judge Marsh. Each acted as if their relations were strained. The judge was not in evidence, but they decided to wait for him. A quick tenderness permeated the sensitive heart of the sympathetic widow as she noticed that Wolcott looked thin and worried.

"You do not seem as well as when I last saw you, Mr. Wolcott," she said. "That is because I haven't seen so much of you," replied Wolcott bluntly.

"Is not that your own fault?" softly intimated the blushing widow. "Surely you have been always welcome at my home."

"I have met with such kindly consideration," answered Wolcott in unsteady tones, "that I dared not continue my visits because I foresaw that it could end only in banishment."

"How strangely you speak," she fluttered.

"Mrs. Burrows, I am a plain man," said Wolcott seriously. "It will be no news to you to know that you are to me the one woman in the world I respect, admire and cherish. It is only recently that I learned of your prospects of fortune. A poor man, I dared not presume that you would look upon me as your equal."

"Why, Mr. Wolcott," exclaimed Mrs. Burrows, "who ever gave you such a ridiculous idea. A poor man? It was when I learned of your coming wealth that I felt that I could never hope—that is—"

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