

Sermons of the Week

Character.—We are creators of our characters, and characters are destinies.—Rev. J. S. Thomson, Independent Church of Christ, New Orleans.

Safety.—Better have a wire fence at the edge of a precipice than a magnificent hospital at the bottom of it.—Rev. J. D. Adams, Reformed, Brooklyn.

Laboring Men.—You laboring men should put Christ on your platform. If you will stand behind Him your cause is won.—Rev. Charles Stetzie, Baptist, Chicago.

Success.—That subtlest lesson and most important art called success is learned principally by making mistakes.—Rev. Frank Crane, Universalist, Worcester, Mass.

Fidelity.—Fidelity is a virtue, not a grace. It is a love of conduct, not of feeling. Our hope must culminate in fidelity, else it is a delusion.—Rev. Homer J. Vosburgh, Baptist, Oakland.

The Ballot.—No man can have his heart filled with the spirit of the Master and his pocket filled with fraudulent ballots at the same time.—Rev. G. B. Vosburgh, Episcopalian, Denver.

Progress.—The human race is a supreme success. It is not deteriorating. Look back to the time when the raw material was placed in the hands of the first man, and then compare the progress of today.—Rev. J. S. Thomson, Independent, Los Angeles.

The Commercial Spirit.—The commercial spirit of the world is in the church and this is hindering the Holy Spirit from doing His work. God cannot work through a church which is dominated by the money power.—Rev. A. R. Holderty, Baptist, Atlanta.

Negro Haters.—The negro bent on self-improvement has very many friends among the white people of the South, while the rabid negro haters would find time to find themselves poorer to inflict injury on him.—Rev. B. T. Washington, Congregationalist, Tuskegee, Ala.

Watchwords.—Life is not speculative. It has to do with stern things. Its great watchwords are Love, Duty, Service, and the husband have opportunities for these, and with these is the character attained that too approves.—Rev. M. A. Broyd, Congregationalist, Monticello, Iowa.

Building.—It is the business of the church to build men. We do not fail so much in building these who have no work. The question of supply is the one that needs careful study.—Rev. L. L. Loofsour, Congregationalist, Charleston, Mass.

Chivalry.—The teaching in all ages, ours among the rest, is to inculcate that chivalry to a great degree consists in taking the risk of being killed or maimed in nine cases out of ten it takes more heroism not to fight than it does to fight.—Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, Presbyterian, New York City.

Sin.—Sin is no creation of theological classification, but a dreadful fact. It destroys the moral likeness of the soul to its creator, crowds it away from him, extinguishes all spiritual life and makes impossible any manifestation of the divine humanity.—Rev. A. H. Studebaker, Episcopalian, Baltimore.

Failure.—Many men have been failures because they had not the conviction of their strength. Often when a person gets out to do a thing a word of encouragement will help him on. But the word of encouragement does not give the strength; there must also be the conviction of strength.—Rev. B. H. Green, Baptist, Duluth.

Prayer.—Because every prayer does not receive an objective answer some people deny the value of prayer altogether. That is like denying the worth of agriculture because some gardens fail to return the desired harvest. There are certain laws to be obeyed and conditions to be complied with if the prayer or the planting are to avail much.—Rev. W. H. McLaughlin, Universalist, Atlanta.

After Death.—If death ends all there is nothing but mockery in the thought of the millions who are brought into the world only to find it a great wilderness of woe after which comes nothing. Every principle of fairness known to man calls for something more, for an added life in which there may be taken off a trial balance that will really balance accounts.—Rev. W. A. Stanton, Baptist, Pittsburg.

Universal Peace.—Permanent and universal peace is the dream of the noblest men. Peace is the child of freedom and righteousness, and these, whether for the individual or the nation, have been obtained at mighty cost. Whether by the shock of war or by constructive individual processes hard-won freedom and right go before a sliding peace.—Rev. J. H. Haslen, Baptist, Philadelphia.

Heroes.—Hero worship cannot be eradicated from humanity. It is well that it is so. It is a splendid thing to have heroes in history as definite ideals. It is a great thing to have also some living heroes as great ideals of our daily lives. But, above all, it is supremely important for us to keep before our minds the Divine Master as a perpetual ideal. Looking up to Him we grow toward God.—Rev. Oliver Huckel, Congregationalist, Baltimore.

Literal Misfortune.—"Did you ever see such an unlucky fellow as Smith? He is always getting in a hole." "Yes, saw him to-day in one." "I suppose, as usual, he had just missed a good opening." "No; found one. Fell into the sewer trench."—Baltimore American.

We have observed that men loaf everywhere except at shops where grave stones are made and sold.

PASSING OF THE DEACON.

Title Said to Have Lost Some of Its Old-Time Reverence.

It is a pity, if true as reported, that the office of deacon has ceased to be regarded with favor by members of the Protestant churches in New England, says the North American Review. Time was when the title conferred distinction and honor, and was sought with as great diligence as could be considered seemly by good and pious men. Once acquired, too, it wrought a marked, though unconscious, change in the demeanor of the possessor, who forthwith became graver and more chary of speech, except in saying grace at table and, in the really old days, at the beautifully simple home service known as "family prayers." But, as the spirit of irreverence gradually permeated unregenerated days, stories of uncouth humor were spun about the deacon as a central figure, comic papers depicted him chiefly as indulging on the sly a liking for a horse race, and, all in all, the title continued to lose its former dignity and significance until now, as we are told, it is not only no longer sought, but rather generally avoided.

Although perhaps sometimes forgotten, it is a fact, scarcely surprising to those given to investigating the origins of customs, that widows are directly responsible for the earliest appointment of church officials of the class we have in mind. When the apostles realized the necessity of providing bodily sustenance for those who were in attendance on their ministrations they made the requisite arrangements; but apparently the distribution was unsystematic, and presently the Grecians were egged on by their widows folk to complain that the Hebrews were obtaining more than their fair share of the provender.

Whereupon the twelve took counsel and decided that, since it ill became them as spiritual teachers to serve the tables, the appointment of certain brethren of good repute to superintend the business was in every way desirable. Seven were chosen—Stephen, who subsequently was famed for his faith and good works; Philip, another admirable man; Prochorus; Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and the proselyte Nicolas—and they were designated fittingly from the nature of their task as deacons—from the Greek diakonos or its Latin derivative diaconus, meaning attendant, or one who serves. That these first members of the order performed well their work is evidenced by the fact that the widows ceased to murmur and by their own rapid advancement in authority, until some were permitted to preach and even to do miraculous deeds.

To this day in the Methodist Episcopal Church, deacons are ordained by the bishop and may serve as traveling preachers, solemnize marriages and administer the rite of baptism. In the Congregational bodies, they seldom preach, but often read a sermon in the absence of the pastor, and invariably distribute the elements of the communion. They are also supposed to act as almoners after the fashion of Stephen and Philip, and in some States are empowered to hold as trustees the property of the church. In the very early days there were deaconesses also; but, as the widows generally selected apparently did not enjoy being classified as "of mature age," the practice fell into disuse, although the order is still maintained in Germany, and to a limited degree by various sects in this country.

BARBER'S REGISTER.

Unique Method of Automatically Registering the Day's Work.

An exceedingly unique device for use in barber shops as a check on the barber is the recent invention of a Texas man. In all modern, up-to-date barber shops it is customary to give each customer procuring a shave an application of bay rum, with hazel or other facial



REGISTERS NUMBER OF SHAVES.

tonic. Such being the case, the inventor has arranged the mechanism of his device whereby each time a bottle is removed and an application is given the fact is automatically registered on a dial. Obviously the register indicates the number of customers procuring a shave, etc. In using this invention three bottles for containing different tonics are employed—one for bay rum, one for hair tonic and probably one for a shampoo tonic—used, respectively, after shaving, hair-cutting and shampooing. A separate register is provided for each bottle, in order that an accurate indication will be made of the day's work. The owner of the barber shop can thus readily ascertain the number of customers accommodated during his absence and the amount each spent.

Faith Cure.

"Tommy," said his Sunday school teacher, "your cold is much better than when I saw you last." "Yes'm," answered Tommy, "I cured it by prayin'." "By prayin'?" I'm glad to hear you say that." "Yes'm. I asked the Lord to take it away from me and give it to Dick Dingo, and Dick's got it, all right."

Probably one reason a dog is such a faithful friend of man is that man has never succeeded in working a dog much. Most people were baptized and vaccinated when they were very little.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

METHOD OF TARIFF REVISION.

By Senator A. J. Beveridge.



We must revise our tariff, and that is a big thing; we must do more—we must now make sensible up-to-date plans for revision, and that is a bigger thing. There are nearly 4,000 items named in our tariff laws, and every year new articles are put on the market which are not named, but which are covered by general terms of the law. It is plain that just and intelligent duties cannot be fixed without a knowledge of the facts upon which every one of these duties is supposed to rest. Yet, as we have made our tariffs heretofore, committees of Congress, working a part of the time for a few months, not only have to find out these facts, but also to fit duties to these facts, study how those duties will work out with foreign tariffs, how our trade will thereby be helped or hurt, and all other things that must be thought of in making a tariff. Yet it is plain that it would be hard for even experts to learn all the facts in so short a time, to say nothing of the other work our congressional committees are now forced to do in making a tariff law.

PEDAGOGIC ADVICE OF LITTLE VALUE.

By John A. Howland.



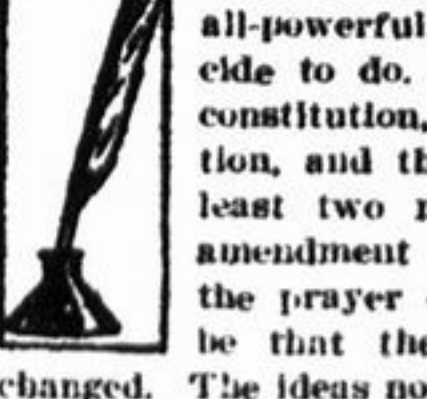
One of the least tolerable of all advisers of the young man is he who frames his long, counting lists of "Don'ts." These prohibitions on the face of them are as the law of the Medes and Persians. Presumably they are to fit every man in every position in every emergency in the calendar. Most of them are framed with reference to prostituting the employer and employe, regardless of the merits or demerits of a situation, and therefore utterly ignorant of whether or not the most radical violation of his particular "Don't" might be the turning point itself in the life of that particular young man.

Ordinarily, in the case of the young man starting out in the world as an employe, or in business himself with the object of pleasing a constituency, he has choice of

Just two alternatives: Do as he is expected to do; or refuse to do the thing and stand by the decision. In either position, the young man in life must depend upon his judgment to right him in the end. There is a type of man in the world's work whose sole claim to virtue is the carrying out to the blind letter the dictates of his superiors. This type is pre-eminently the product of the doctrine of conventional "Don'ts." The vast majority of these men either are weaklings or snobs. As weaklings they are the men of least consequence to any work requiring initiative and accomplishment. As snobs they are a constant menace to whatever institution their disloyal service affects. Unless you are willing to become an automaton mental, fix upon your purpose in life, sound yourself and your capabilities, and base your chances for success upon these and upon your judgment of men and things as you grow wise to your environment.

UNLIMITED POWER OF THE PEOPLE.

By Ex-Gov. Black of New York.



It must be remembered that the people are all-powerful. They can do whatever they decide to do. They are now checked by their constitution, but they made even the constitution, and they can unmake it. There are at least two methods of doing this—one by amendment and the other by revolution. But the prayer of every patriot in the land will be that the constitution shall not now be changed. The ideas now most popular are also most dangerous. The clamor is for limitation of fortunes, forgetting that that also means the limitation of industry; for the curtailment of the power of the courts, forgetting that that means death to the freedom of the individual; for the equality of men by arbitrary rule, forgetting that this means to clog the industries and help the lazy. The spirit now abroad, if given rein, would make the incompetent equal by law to the skilled, the dissolute equal to the sober, the cheat and the shirk equal to the honest man.

The people, when they try, can raze everything to the ground. They can unmake or remake their constitution. They may, if they like, abolish their courts and legislatures and take the reins of government directly in their own hands. This means revolution, but are there no precedents for revolution?

Is there any prophet abroad in these days who can say how far the people would go in their present temper? Would the majority vote to limit private fortunes? Would they vote to redistribute private estates which were large enough to tempt their cupidity? Would they curtail the power of the courts?

You can answer these questions as well as any body of men now living, and you can also answer whether the suggested changes would be wise.

PORTUGAL'S DOUBLE TRAGEDY.

How a King's Fight Against Graft Led to Assassination.

It seems an irony of fate that the hand of the assassin should, more often be raised against the benevolent ruler whose heart is burdened with the sorrows of his people and whose efforts are directed toward an amelioration of their woes than against the tyrant who rules with a rod of iron and is prompted merely by the love of selfish power. One has only to give history a cursory glance to demonstrate this. No Sultan ever came to the throne of Turkey with a warmer love for his subjects or a greater desire for their prosperity and happiness than were possessed by Abdul Aziz, Alexander II. of Russia! The most benign, the most lovable Czar who ever sat on the throne

graft—yielding places and a swapping of shewers. The people murmured, but in their ignorance and poverty were but the tools of salaried demagogues and the victims of wheedling politicians. Carlos begged, implored, threatened, in vain. He did his best to keep down taxation, but each year saw an increased deficit. The grafters only smiled and went on their grafting way.

Then Carlos made Senor Franco Prime Minister and called on the Cortes (the Parliament) to get together as men and inaugurate much-needed reforms. They failed, and he dissolved the Cortes, ordering a new election and declaring he would not permit a session until the people had had an opportunity to select other and better men. The Cortes was defiant, and he made Franco dictator of the kingdom, with full power.

Several attempts were made upon Franco's life and the King was repeatedly threatened. Revolution was feared, but few anticipated the climax which came with cowardly double assassination. King Carlos was 45 years of age. He was a son of Luis I. and Maria Pia, daughter of Victor Emmanuel II. of Italy and sister of King Humbert. On the death of his father in 1880 he became King, at the age of 28. In 1893 he married Marie Amelie, daughter of the deposed royal house of France, the Comte de Paris, and sister of the present Duke of Orleans. She is counted among the most beautiful royal women of Europe. She was recently in England to attend the wedding of her sister.

Amelie is much beloved by the Portuguese people and was very much attached to her good-natured spouse. Carlos was almost a giant in weight, over 300 pounds. He was a hearty eater, and many stories—probably exaggerated—are told of his appetite. Despite his weight he was an athlete, excelling especially in swimming. He was also a ripe scholar, a linguist and an artist of no little merit.

One on the Coburns.

One night Paganini was going to the Paris opera house, where he was to astonish every one by playing on one string. Being late, he took a cab, and when he arrived at his destination the cabbie wanted ten francs. "What?" he exclaimed, "you are crazy; I have only had you five minutes!" "I know it is much," said the other, "but for you who make a fortune by playing on one string it must be ten francs." "Well," said Paganini, handing him the right fare, "when you can make your cab go on one wheel come to me and I will give you nineteen francs."—La Caricaturista.

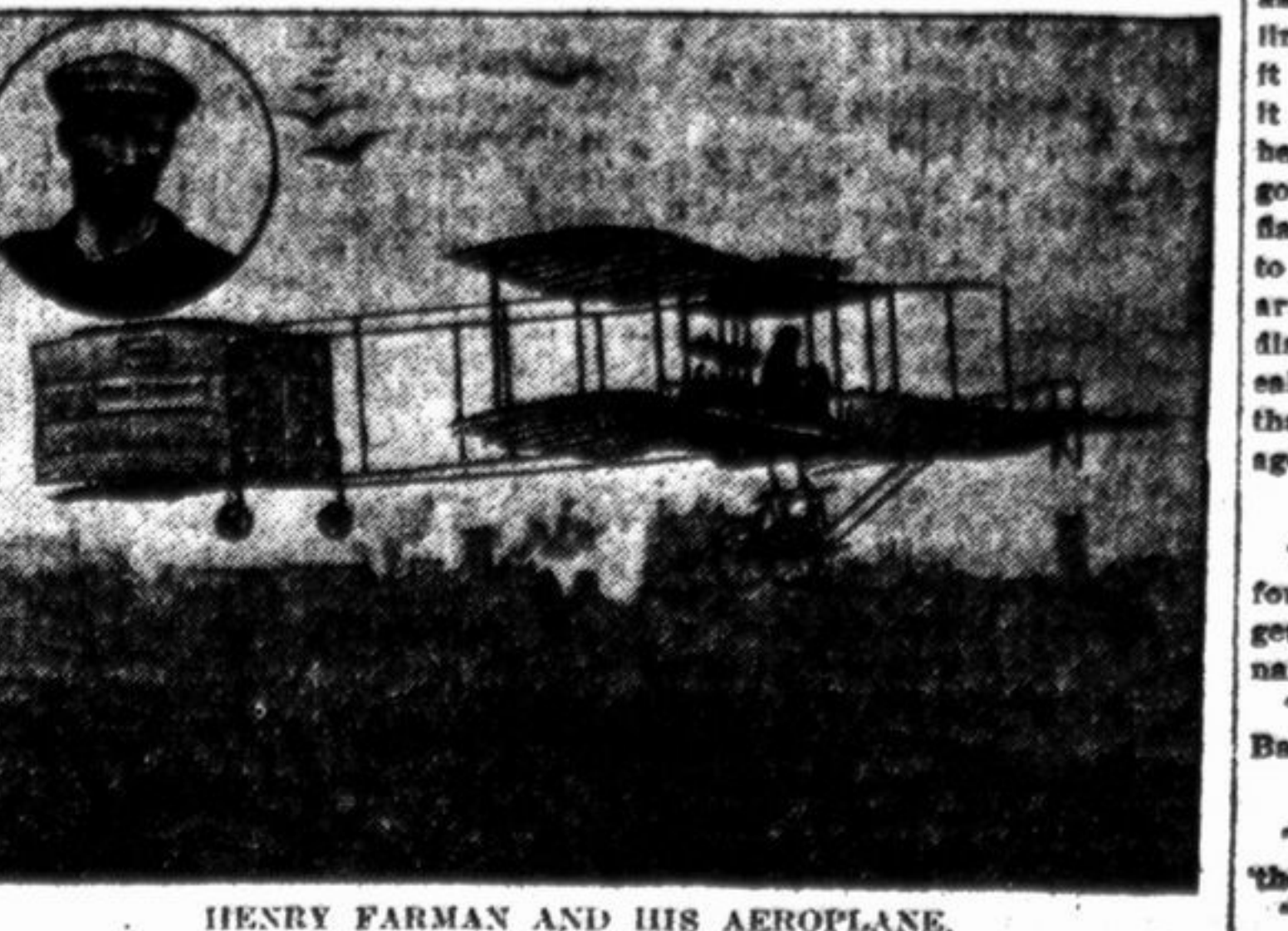
Microscope.

The best microscopes are warranted to magnify about 16,000 times. Those are the kind most people would make use of in examining their neighbors' faults.—Washington Post.

Women are most sensible when among women, and men are most sensible when among men.

It is best not to try to get the best of your best friend.

MAN FLIES AT LAST.



HENRY FARMAN AND HIS AEROPLANE.

The most extraordinary feat yet performed in the navigation of the air was accomplished at Issy, near Paris, when Mr. Henry Farman covered the circular kilometer with his aeroplane. It is not the first time that Mr. Farman has flown a kilometer, but his former experiences were unofficial. Recently he competed formally for the Deutsch-Archdeacon prize of £2,000 for covering a circular course of a kilometer with a machine heavier than air, and he won it after a perfectly successful flight.

HOW TO BE A GENTLEMAN.

By Lester Brunton's Advice to Those Who Would Reach 100.

Though three-score years and ten is generally regarded as the normal span of life, there are no insuperable reasons, in the opinion of Sir Lauder Brunton, why it should not be the rule rather than the exception for men and women to retain their activity until 90 and even 100. "The number of men living to 100 years per 100,000 of the population from 1801 to 1900 is only seven and women twenty-four, as compared with fifteen men and thirty women in 1838 to 1864," he says. Sir Lauder Brunton regards as one of the greatest enemies of old age, since it is a frequent cause of colds and other respiratory diseases. "At the time when I used my consulting room as a library," he says, "I found very frequently that if I had occasion to consult a book from one of the top shelves I was apt to get a cold in my head. "This occurred with such regularity that at last I took to sponging the top of the book with a solution of carbolic acid before using it." Chills and especially local chills are to be guarded against. "Wind which comes fairly in one's face is little to be dreaded, but if wind catches one at the back of the neck, behind the ear or even at the side of the head it is much more dangerous. "Largely open windows are comparatively safe, but a chink through which the air blows with force is to be carefully avoided. "One reason of this probably is that wind blowing through a chink causes a more rapid current of air and thus chills the part of the body against which it impinges much more quickly than air moving slowly and still more than air which is not moving at all. "Improper mastication of food is also a fruitful cause of organic diseases in middle age. "The practice of gobbling," Sir Lauder Brunton says, "may to a certain extent at least, be responsible for the larger proportion of cancer of the stomach which occurs in men more than in women at the age of 55 years, the numbers being 2,244 and 2,967, while at 65 years the number are nearly equal, being 2,985 and 2,917 and at higher ages they are reversed."—London Lancet.

REFORM IN INSURANCE.

What an Improved Law Might Accomplish for the Insured.

Certain changes in the law can help make insurance what it should be, though wider knowledge must be the basis both for the law and for the improvements, says "Q. E." in World's Work. The law can make it easier to understand what one pays for when he buys a life insurance policy, and prevent his being swindled by false representations. The law can offer only part of the remedy, but it can do this: First. Forbid a life insurance company from selling anything except pure life insurance policies. Second. Prescribe a standard policy, simple and intelligible. Third. Require every policy to state on its face both the total premium and the items which go to make up that total—the mortality charge, the reserve and the amount added to meet the expense. Fourth. Require that all savings in mortality, collections and interest on the reserve assets be credited absolutely on the next premium that will fall due. Fifth. Apply the savings bank law to the investment of life insurance assets. Sixth. Stop the robbery of substitute policy holders in surrender values and make life insurance irrevocable. A life insurance policy is not a personal investment, but a protection for the policyholder's family, or creditors. There are companies which sell simple forms of policy and even the most complicated forms can be put in an intelligible language by an insurance lawyer for a reasonable fee. The cost of the annual charge for death losses, the excess interest on the same not paid for reserve and the allowance in case of expenses can all be ascertained through insurance publications and the gain and loss exhibits required in several of the states. But chiefly the evil of regarding life insurance as an investment and subjecting it to the perils of investments, exists in almost every form of policy and requires positive legislative action.

The Young Man's Success.

A young bond salesman for a New York house interviewed the late Marshall Field in the spring of 1900 with a view to selling him a number of Pennsylvania Railroad guaranteed bonds, yielding a little less than 4 per cent. "Young man," said Mr. Field, "you are only wasting my time and yours. I like your bonds. When the trustees of my estate come to investing the interest on my investment I hope they will buy that kind of bonds, but I am a business man and do not care to put a large part of my surplus in a fully developed property any more than I should care to buy one's business enterprise that seemed to me to have reached the limit of its growth, no matter how solid it might be. Your bonds are too good for me." Mr. Field will be noted, invested his surplus on the same principle upon which he built up his business, namely, to get the money where it has a chance to grow.—World's Work.

What's in a Name?

"We are going to establish a shelter for cats where they can stay till they get a good permanent home. What name would you suggest for it?" "Why not call it a pounce cafe?"—Baltimore American.

Two Sides to It.

"It's an old saying, you know, that the more we get the more we want." "Yes, but it's just as true that the more we want, the less we get."—Philadelphia Press.

The "Money" Agent.

When a man claims he won a "money" victory it means he has had the stuffing kicked out of him.—Tribune Chicago.

"Bill" Inherits.

"Bill" inherits a fortune of \$100,000. "How does your father feel?" "Bill" inherits a fortune of \$100,000. "How does your father feel?"