

IT IS A PLEASANT THING

To Run a Newspaper, Providing You Don't Care What the People Think or Say of You.

It is an impossibility to keep at peace with the entire community. The newspaper that has done so or can do so, will be something entirely different from any publication known to the readers of the world. You are bound to offend someone. As a rule the people dislike to be criticised, but they deem it a right which none must attempt to heap abuse upon the newspaper because the publisher has given information to the public not consistent with the "one man idea."

The mission of a newspaper is to print the news, not to meet the ideas of any one individual, but the greatest number. If a subscriber should buy or sell a heifer at the county fair and the important event should not be chronicled by the local paper, it is as sure as death that the party thus "offended" would say unmentionable things about the publisher and like as not write to have his paper discontinued.

If a public official is criticised, he is very much put out about it; if he is not criticised, the public says "the paper dare not give an opinion." If a man is an aspirant for public honors and fails, he says "the paper dare not give me the support it ought to"; if he wins, and the paper has given him substantial support, he says "I won without the aid of the newspaper." There you are. It occasionally happens that the editor or reporter is misinformed regarding some local matter, and it is published in good faith. However, the next morning the reporter's head, or at least the hair on it—if he has any left, which is rarely the case after a few years of this strenuous life—is in danger. Mrs. Knowitall rushes in with an expression on her painted physiognomy that would freeze the blood of a border outlaw, and demands an interview with "the sawed-off piece of humanity who wrote that item." The poor pencil-pusher is forced to face the music, but he had much rather face satan and his cohorts. She airs her opinion, and meanwhile the reporter tries to explain, but can't get a word in edgeways.

Some people have an idea that a paper is published for the purpose of airing personal grievances, and when the editor refuses to give space to such matters his action is denounced by the party in question. This paper has in the past and will in the future continue to keep its columns clean of all sensational matter or personal abuse. Its patrons are entitled to a clear and non-partisan report of the local and general news. It will report public affairs as they are carried out, without seeking to favor individuals, sect or party. Its columns will always be open to any individual feeling that he or she has suffered an injustice at its hands.—Ex.

Mrs. Susan Auwenter, of Braddock, Pa., furnishes a prize story of the recent hurly-burly in stocks. About five years ago she purchased 18 shares of Northern Pacific, paying \$10 a share. Shortly afterward the bottom fell out of the market and the stock became practically worthless. Her brother-in-law owned some of the stuff, but sold it for 25 cents a share and urged Mrs. Auwenter to do the same. She declined to do so, but put them in cheap frames and hung them up on the walls as a reminder of what then seemed to be her folly in making such an investment. During the whirl in Wall street, when the stock was jumping \$100 at a leap, she sent her shares to New York, where they were gobbled up at an immense figure. Now it develops that Mrs. Auwenter failed to pay an assessment levied some years ago, and there she sits, a small object of her getting the purchase price.

One of the most notable library symptoms is the tremendous increase of interest in spiritual and theological problems, said a prominent librarian recently to a writer in the New York Sun. It is astonishing to see how many men and women are reading eagerly everything dealing with questions of life and immortality. We have a great many elderly readers who are absorbed in such literature. I suppose modern thought has upset their early beliefs, and they are struggling to readjust their theories and doctrines in the little time that is left to them. Psychology and all forms of occultism have a grip upon the public interest now, and sociological works find 20 times the number of readers they had even ten years ago. It interests me to see how many young men are delving in sociology and economics, a large proportion of them being from the working classes.

"Dine here and you will never dine anywhere else," is a startling though doubtless meant to be alluring, statement in the window of a restaurant in Camden, N. J. Hung underneath the above was a notice written on a piece of legal cap paper, that read: "Wanted, a boy, who can open oysters with a reference."

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