

A remarkable change is now taking place in the character of the matter furnished to their readers by the ladies' magazines. A number of these publications, recently examined, with a view to determining the general character of their contents, shows according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, that they are becoming intensely utilitarian. As a rule, they are divided into departments, each teaching the reader how to do something or how something ought to be done. Intense practicability is the motto; the sentimental is either altogether eliminated or crowded into the background. The change is probably significant of that which is taking place in the life of woman. She is no longer the slave of man, if, indeed, she ever was. She has learned to think and act for herself. She has acquired an ambition to be practical. Whatever she does, she desires to do in the best possible way and with the best results. The change is undoubtedly for the better, but to those who remember the kind of reading matter that was furnished to the ladies by their magazines 25 or 30 years ago it is cause for profound astonishment.

A little humor goes a great ways in English official and private circles. They get their notions of humor from Punch, which is the most nonhumorous publication in the world. Before the Alaskan commission sitting in London Mr. Watson, one of the American advocates, inadvertently addressed the commissioners often as "your honors," forgetful of the fact that he was not in court, but before a mere board of arbitration. After one of these lapses of his tongue he apologized to the board by saying that he had been trained in the courts and accustomed to that phrase in his arguments. Lord Alverstone, the presiding officer of the board in a sprightly way asked: "Don't you think we deserve that title?" And there was a laugh. "Indeed I do!" responded Mr. Watson, and then the laugh became general. It is said to have been the "only humorous episode" that has occurred during the Alaska hearing. They have not had much fun, if this is the best specimen.

Some explanation of the sudden and unprecedented development of ferocity among the feathered crowing masters of the barnyard is urgent. Within a month five small children have been attacked by a rooster with fatal results in several instances. What ails this heretofore harmless and usually cowardly brawler of midnight and early morn? A very Falstaff for bluster and a skuttling impersonation of terror whenever a cat slinks across the fence corner, why is he suddenly embittered against human kind, bent on using the one weapon that nature gave him with deadly diabolism on infancy? There is a degeneration marked here that must have its reason for being. The gallinaceous tribe may have been given a too elevated notion of its importance in the world.

The poorest kind of economy is to try to save money by not paying your debts.

Of all the vices to which men are addicted, gambling is undoubtedly the worst, unequivocally declares the New York Journal. Gambling has a worse effect on the mind and conscience even than drink. The inveterate gambler cannot remain honest he does not remain honest. We talk earnestly to the young man with the gambling habit, because many such young men are strong in ability and character and would render good service to the world if they could use their energies properly. The gambling instinct is a perverted form of ambition, the most dangerous of human perversions. Every young man who has genuine strength should think about gambling from his own point of view, and his own pride should give him reasons for stopping. If you want success in life you should want it as a result of your own efforts, not as the result of any accident. If you want to be prosperous you should have the ambition to be prosperous because you have worked hard, not because some poor horse, lashed and spurred and overdriven, has happened to win when you bet on it. The gambling instinct is weak as well as vicious. It is self-indulgent and contemptible, it represents the desire to get something for nothing.

In a thousand ways Mexico naively tries to be American, says the World's Weekly. Three years ago she adopted an American circus, and since then she has had no greater pet than a certain American clown. She has the wireless telegraph across the gulf of California. She uses typewriters far more generally than Paris. She even indulges in the soaring dreams of progress, as her American airship company, which announces a bee-line service between Mexico City and Washington. There are cities almost American cities, such as Monterey and the capital. There are mining camps entirely American. "English spoken" is a superfluity. There are American signs at every turn, American names, American goods, American customs, American language and the Americans.

It will be hard for the ice trust to think up excuses for raising the price of ice next summer, but some of the suggestions offered by a sympathetic public are under consideration: "Prices will be increased because the severe weather caused so much suffering among the horses." "Prices will go up because there has been considerable extra wear and tear on tools, owing to the weather." "because we have had to pay so much overtime for getting in such a tremendous crop." "because the expense of cutting extra thick ice was so large." "because we need the money," etc.

At last the very meanest man is found. His habitat is Brooklyn, the city of bliss and babies. A physician who had attended his sick wife presented a bill for services amounting to \$200. "I refuse to pay it," the meanest man said. "I did not authorize you to prescribe for my wife." "Well, somebody sent for me, and I have saved her life, sir, saved her life." "Put that admission in writing, sir. If you poster me I'll sue for damages, and if there's any justice under high heaven I'll win."

## The Duty of Governments

By DR. EDWARD EVERETT HALE,  
Chaplain United States Senate.



People refer to the various plans for international arbitration as experiments. One hundred and twenty years ago there was a similar experience, when 13 states united to try an experiment, and from then to the present time the country which they formed has been growing stronger and stronger until the 45 states which to-day compose the union are emblematic of what an experiment can be molded into when the right sort of timber is back of the enterprise. Some one has said that this republic will not last more than 100 years longer. That may be, though I have my doubts, but if it proves true I want to say that if we can arrange the next century I leave the year 2001 to take care of itself and paddle its own canoe.

I once met a Russian who told me that in traveling in this country he had not seen a soldier for two days.

"Well, what of it?" I asked him. "What do you want with soldiers?"

"For protection," he answered.

"For protection?" I replied.

"Yes," he said; "to let me see that there is a government."

"To let you see that you have a government? Why, don't your government bring you your letters? Mine brings me mine. That shows me that I have a government. It brings me my letters, and that's all I want to know about it."

And that is what we want of governments, to perform necessary services for us, not to drag us into bloody wars with our fellow-men. We have a government and we need no soldiers to prove it. The constitution of 1787 created a supreme court, and before that supreme court the president of the United States has to bow; before it all of the people have to bow. It is not generally known that in the years past Rhode Island and Massachusetts were on the verge of a civil war; but the supreme court of the United States stepped in and each of those great commonwealths had to bow to the superior powers created by the constitution of the United States. That sort of thing has been going on for 120 years, and there is no reason why it should not be extended to all the earth and wars become a thing of the past before the superior power of a great supreme court of the earth, an idea that was intended when the 24 nations met at The Hague in response to the call of the czar to arrange for universal disarmament and universal peace.

Mark McTigue has been sexton of Crown Point cemetery, Kokomo, Ind., for 35 years and has dug over 4,000 graves in his time. Mark says that the only time he ever felt creepy in a graveyard was once a good many years ago when he buried a victim of smallpox at midnight.

A tramp smoking in a granary at Zsarnoe, Hungary, set fire to the place. The inhabitants, unable to extinguish it, threw the tramp into the flames, whence he was rescued by the police in a dying condition.

Here is how a Kansas paper identifies a multimillionaire railroad magnate: "George Gould, who is a brother of Helen Gould, passed through here yesterday on his special car."

Life in the country is the ideal of the man who has seen too much life.

Possibly the reason so many men make fortunes on a thousand or two a year is because they do not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing.

There is no question but what disease is spread and encouraged by the interchange of money, especially paper money. We don't mean to insinuate that enough is coming our way to cause us to have appendicitis, but there is a lot of filthy greenbacks floating around which should have a bath. As a rule, paper money circulates until it wears out. Then it is sent to Washington and made into paper buckets, etc. In the interests of good health, when this money gets into the banks it should be placed in some disinfecting bath and cleansed. While the general public will not run from a dollar bill, dirty or clean, the majority of people would prefer to have their money clean. There is no telling how much disease is communicated through the interchange of what is rightly named "filthy lucre."

Lloyd's Register for 1903-04 puts the world's mercantile marine on July 10, 1903, at 29,943 steamships of 27,183,365 tons and 12,182 sailing vessels of 6,450,766 tons.

Mr. Carnegie predicts that England and America will eventually be one nation, but fails to tell us which one.