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STUBBORNNESS.
AMATEUR WRITING.
DRUNKARDS.

A reader asks: "What actuates a stubborn man?" Answer—Meanness: Scare him sufficiently, and he will come out of it.

I find satisfaction and value in the writing of amateurs. Their halting fear of an audience appeals to me, and I am more readily disposed to approve than when I pick up a book of an old professional like Bernard Shaw or H. G. Wells. Both these men (and most of the noted) display contempt for us readers too frequently, whereas by reason of our great number, we have accomplished more than the few authors with all their skill manipulating the make-up box. . . . I find very good things in amateur writing. I have before me a modest book by Alfred Hitch, published by the author in the usual amateurish style, from which I quote samples: Virtue is its own reward; anything else is a bribe. . . . Not to fear is not courage, but insensibility. Courage is to fear and still attempt. . . . The possible always happens sooner or later. . . . The less people have in themselves the more they seek the society of others. . . . The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam celebrates that disgusting trait in man to get drunk when anything goes wrong (whereas adversity is the precise time one should remain sober). It is not strange that in the custom of "treating" a friend, the custom is to offer him poison that should go to an enemy? . . . Dogs are dogs whether they are under or on top. . . . The only immortality of which man is worthy would be that of preservation in alcohol with other reptiles and insects; and two or three specimens would be enough. . . . Give me facts, and I will ask for truth. . . . The Russians and Germans cheerfully followed their sovereigns through pillage and murder, and turned from them only when they failed.

I have never been able to understand a drunkard. Every man may be pardoned for making a fool of himself occasionally; and, if a man is behaving when we hear of his folly, it helps with the public. But the folly of the drunkard is continuous; he punishes himself every week or every day, and knows the loss is greater than the profit; not one drunk in the many he has engaged in has paid him. Therefore how does such a man satisfy his conscience? An old drunkard tells me the exhilaration of a good stiff drink of whisky lasts forty minutes. For such exhilaration one pays with busthead lasting several hours; in the case of a drunkard, he pays with the contempt of everybody. Unless heir to a fortune, he accepts the unnecessary disgrace of failure and poverty—and even if born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he soon spews it out, and substitutes pewter. What is the philosophy of the drunkard? Or of the idler, the bore, the dead beat, or other persistent violator of rules of human society? They have excuses, but usually these are merely exercise in the trade of a liar, wherein one insults himself with further injury.

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The annual stockholders' meeting of the Highland Park Hospital Association, for the election of three members of the Board of Managers, consideration of annual reports and the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting, has been called and will be held on Monday, Nov. 4, 1929, at the hour of 7:30 p.m., at the Hospital, Highland Park, Ill. A meeting of the Board of Managers will be held immediately after its adjournment. Stockholders and friends of the association are requested to attend.

Thomas Creigh, Secretary

"The House"

—should always be a fitting symbol of the ideals and aspirations of the family, which it shelters.—Herbert Hoover.

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