

Thought for the Day. One of the colossal blunders of all ages is that ideas can be conquered by force.

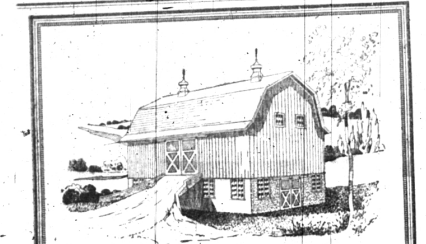
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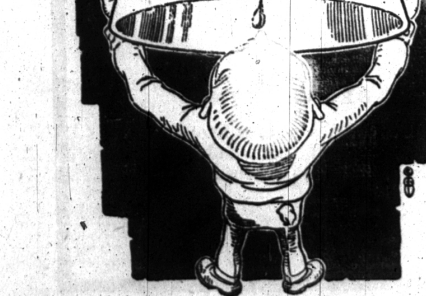
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CHURCH TRAMP ARTICLES

Having To Do With a Real Revival Of Religion In Christian Homes By GENERATION AND REGENERATION

The Birth of Holy Children (I. Cor. 7:14) and Their Nurture By Christian Parents, in Christian Homes, Directed and Supported By The Christian Churches

(Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles that appear in the Detroit News-Tribune between the years 1910-1916. They were written by Henry Wood, Bishop of Greenock, Bloomsfield Hills, under the nom-de-plume of "The Churchman." Although we may not agree with all that "fair" has written, we believe in sufficient values and interest to our readers to reproduce them in The Eccentric.)

SEPTEMBER 24, 1905. Answers a Mother About Her Daughter's Surprizing Kissing.

Mrs. ... of Pontiac, has had an altercation with her 16-year-old daughter, whom she discovered complacently allowing herself to be kissed effusively by a man not recognized as a lover even, in any sense—in fact, she told her mother that she would not marry him if he were gold-plated. This young miss resented her mother's "old-fashioned" attitude, and said that "all the girls do it," and that "there is no harm in it anyway." My correspondent wishes to know what I think about it.

Such notions as those indulged by this girl are altogether too common, and the rule the girls are not allowed to follow is not altogether to be commended. When they were very little they were actually encouraged and taught to kiss, and to be kissed by almost everybody. When they got a little bigger they were in the habit of being taken on the knee, and danced, and bounced, and hugged, and kissed by fathers, yes, and by grandfathers, and uncles, and brothers and cousins, and by men not being visitors and others who are not in any sense relatives—and this with-out a word of rebuke by any older female, unless perhaps it may be by a grandmother, who, when she ventured to suggest that "when I was a girl I was taught that such actions were decidedly improper," was quickly shut up by the new women, who repeated all such "patriarchal prudish notions." Is it any wonder, then, that when girls get in their teens, see their such as that complained of by "Mrs. ... are sometimes actually "discovered"?

As for "what I think about it," I course the thoughts on this subject are of one who is rapidly nearing his say "three score and ten" may be expected to be "old fashioned" and "backwardless," I present them notwithstanding, with becoming modesty of course, and with the greatest possible brevity.

I think, then, that children should be taught never to kiss anyone on the lips at all. Kisses lip to lip are for husbands and wives and betrothed couples only. When a young man says "Will you be my wife?" and the young woman says "Yes," they kiss, lip to lip, for the first time. Men, women and children of the same family, household, kin or kin kiss each other on the cheek, very old people, and sick people if at all, on the forehead. That, I think, should be the general, the universal rule. In regard to the specific question in question, I will say that no girl, until she is engaged, should permit any man other than a near kinsman, to kiss her in any way, or to be otherwise similarly familiar. Girls and women who most respect themselves are most respected by all respectable men.

NOVEMBER 19, 1905. He Discusses the Decadence of the American Home. Thinks Women Are the Cause of It. Asks Proper Position at the Head of the Household as its Prophet, Priest and King.

Wise men among us have come to see that the great menace to our American life is the prevailing craze for doing away with homes, as well as the evident decadence in the quality of nearly all the homes that are remaining. No less than three of our prominent citizens discussed this question last Sunday morning before as many Detroit audiences. One said:

The average home has no definite, well-thought-out plan for the management of the children. It is apt to be the plan of the moment depending upon the mood of the parent. What is best for the child is not soberly considered.

An ex-justice said: Nine-tenths of the bills for divorce cite "failure to provide" or "cruelty" as the cause. But the real cause of this is the wholly unpreparedness of one party or the other for domestic life. The fault is in those other homes where the pair were schooled in the lessons of life.

While an eminent medical specialist declared that "the sanctity of the family life is destroyed by flat dwelling," and "the going out of women into all sorts of professions breaks up the American home and ruins home ties."

My own impression is that American women are mostly to blame for the decadence of the American home. They have been spoiled. In the early history of the country, as in all new settlements, women were scarce, consequently they were greatly deferred to, and the subjects of constant homage. Almost any one of them could have either the top or the bottom brick of the chimney for the asking. Our government was based on the supposed axiom that "every man is as good as any other," but every woman was better than any man and as good as any other woman. The result of this notion has been that every woman, no matter what her condition in life, has claimed the "right" to be housed and fed, and catered to, exactly the same as was her rich neighbor. Her husband's duty was to hustle and make all the money he could, to enable his wife to buy furniture and clothes, of the same pattern if not of the same material, as those possessed by the afforesaid rich neighbor. So he worked and worked early in the morning and late at night, having no time at home but Sunday. And the wife worked—oh, yes, she worked—and rubbed, and scrubbed and grubbed to keep the house clean and make clothes for herself and the children, and she "sent them" to school, day school and Sunday school, but she seldom taught them



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