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WHAT CONSTITUTES A REFORM?

The greatest reform movement that was ever introduced into this world was that simple doctrine—preached and exemplified by the Nazarene. Attempts to attain a true state of Christianity—though far from being every majorly successful to date—have been the greatest steady influence upon men and women, and are chiefly responsible for what amount of goodness exists today.

Each generation that inhabits the earth, by its very marked progress along material and scientific lines, creates attendant problems for the solution of the people; wherever the natural resources of the earth may be dug out by the labor of man, and stored in treasure vaults by those who are smart enough to outwit their fellows—wherever such conditions exist may be found problems which must be met, so that such property may be conserved and protected against loss.

Reforms are being introduced almost daily to alleviate these problems. Men and women are spending their utmost efforts to put across an idea that they believe to be right and proper. Some of them are accepted and applied; most of them are rejected.

The chronology of human affairs proves that most reforms have as an objective the protection of things that moths consume and rust decays; they are born in iniquity, they live in corruption, and die in disgrace. If TRUTH is the world's best commodity, and is eternal in its scope of application and life, then all reforms must contain nothing but TRUTH if they would adequately meet the problems of the world.

In other words, if the human ken embraces two kinds of life, one of them spiritual and immortal, and the other material and mortal, then the only thing that can definitely assure a happy reformation for men and women is the application of God's laws. Human legislation and human enforcement agencies are practically useless.

REAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

With the recent organization of the new council, Fred W. Green begins his fourteenth year as mayor of the City of Ionia. Judged from the average record for office-holding, fourteen years is a long time to be kept continuously on any one job by the voters, even in a man's own home town. But there is no mystery in the long tenure in office that has been accorded Mayor Green. His official record has been approved by his constituents year after year because he saw in his position, not a chance to hold office, but an opportunity to be of service to his fellow citizens.

Fourteen years ago, when he assumed the office, the City of Ionia was torn with political and religious warfare, sometimes so bitter that the friendships of years were torn apart and men met each other on the city streets without recognition. Now that is all changed. In place of civic strife has come peace and understanding. For years the city has been like a large family, each man interested in his neighbor, each willing and eager to do his part towards community progress. Such a course has paid big dividends in increased industries, miles of well-paved streets, enlarged public utilities, low bonded indebtedness, better service by civic employees, and best of all, a real civic pride, all due to the influence of one man. It is no wonder that every citizen of Ionia sees in Mayor Fred W. Green, as governor of Michigan, a man who would lead the state to greater heights of prosperity and contentment.—From the Ionia County News.

PLAY BALL!

The opening of the baseball season means to many men the time when a daily outing is taken with the excuse of watching a baseball game and joining in the cheering of the fans. To many a man confined in an office, exposure to sunshine and the breezes of a summer day is unknown save only in the bleachers of a baseball park.

The cares of the office are left far behind and wholehearted enthusiasm in the sport sends the blood coursing a little faster through his veins. He joins in the cheers for the home team and is depressed or elated as the tide of battle falls or rises. His sentiment and animal instinct are exercised when he exhorts the batter to "Hit 'er a mile," or calls the umpire a thief or worse. And thus his nature is rounded out, for the average normal man is ashamed to show much enthusiasm on any other occasion.

America may well acclaim baseball as one of her greatest agencies for democracy. Staid bankers and street urchin, college professor and corner loafer, jump up and pound each other on the back when some beloved home team makes a single with two on base and the next man hits a home run. Such are great moments in the game, and although forgotten in the press of business the next day, there is an unseen bond of fraternity between the men who applauded the same act and united in their audible praise.

Do the men playing the game enjoy themselves more than those who watch? Notice the glee of the player who slides into second with the catcher trying to catch him off the bag. It would be a good thing if more men were able to participate in the game, but there are few normal boys who do not play baseball. They hope themselves to become Babe Ruths or Ty Cobs some day, but even if their ambitions are not realized, the exercise will give them a better physical machine for doing their life work when they grow up.

With every succeeding season baseball seems better to deserve its title as the national pastime.

There are too many girls who can dance 24 hours and too few who can get a meal in 24 minutes.

If all the days were sunny,
And all the skies were blue;
If the flowers never faded,
And if fairy tales were true;
If friends were always faithful
And the changeful course of love
Ran smooth as rippling water;
If the fleecy clouds above
Were never dark and threatening,
Do you suppose we'd be
More happy and contented
With this old world, you and me?

Oh, the golden sun shines brightest
Thru the clouds just after rain,
And the joys of life are sweetest
After dreary days of pain.
It would be sad in springtime
Not to welcome back the flow'rs
And what would summer days be like
Without the cooling show'rs?
If fairy tales were true,
Their charm we soon would fail to see.
I guess this world's all right,
Just as it is, for you and me.

—Beatrice McDonald.

ON BEING USEFUL

Men and women who sow the seed of constant useful activity reap the harvest of success from a soil fertilized by their own steady purpose. It would be as foolish to expect success without active exertion as to gather a crop before you plant the seed. But in cultivating that character which reaps true achievement you may sow in all seasons and gather the fruits with the serene assurance that even wind and weather—storm and stress—are a part of the process of personal growth.

Optimism is an ally of effort and success. It is the kernel of the nut, not the shell. It is the fine trait of the man, not the faults. It is the flowers on the hillside, not the dead leaves under the snow. It is the opportunity in any job, not the grind. It is up to the individual whether his world will be golden or drab. Optimism in a word is the eye of the soul. It is the color in the vision revealing the fine beyond the coarse, the best beyond the worst.

What March overlooked April is supplying.
The hammer of construction drowns out the hammer of the knocker.

There is no law under which to arrest a nation for driving the war chariot while intoxicated.

Freedom: An imaginary state enjoyed by those who are too busy to be conscious of their chains.

Under the blessings of civilization and learning, man has become reconciled to almost everything except man.

The man who is "good for it, but mighty slow pay," is just a deadbeat without the courage of his convictions.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—
of Long Ago

Just Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up the Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

43 YEARS AGO Lost: a plaid gray shawl between Ertry's school house and Geo. Jack. John Bodine's residence on Maple Sunday. The finder will please leave repairs and is much improved in appearance.

25 YEARS AGO Hon. O. Poppleton has returned from his Colorado trip.

Mattie Irving is visiting at St. Louis, Mo. 44 present and will make a stay.

Joshua Shuler of Southfield had a valuable revolver stolen from his house last week.

It looked kinder funny to see 'em sweeping the snow off the walks Tuesday morning, May 2nd.

Mrs. J. E. Conny and her daughter, Nellie, from Jackson, Mich., are visiting Mrs. Wm. H. Camp this week.

Joined in matrimony at Birmingham, Mich., Feb. 28th, 1882, by John Bodine, Esq., Cornelius H. Brayman Sr., and Mrs. Helen R. Hunt. No cards.

Ed Miller has a nobby new windmill in his barn. He has just received evidence of solid prosperity.

And now comes that dreadful period of housecleaning, when the poor wretch of a husband sighs for a lodge in some vast wilderness.

A. E. Bigelow of Detroit, father of C. A. Bigelow of this place, was visiting at Wm. Young's on Sunday last. He was accompanied by Miss Lydia Houck of Detroit.

Mason Leonard of Troy has telephone connections between his house and Harry Wattle's, a new windmill in operation, and a pair of first class hay scales. There's enterprise for you.

We were shown by Prof. Clabe recently a handsome microscope purchased for the use of the school by money raised through the efforts of the Lyceum. It is a handsome affair, very powerful, and is used by the boys in class in pursuing their studies. The class own individually, each one, a neat little microscope of their own and can tell all about plants, leaves, stamens, pistils, etc., etc.

One of the leading trial lawyers of Berrien county, had announced that he is through defending bootleggers. The brilliant Mr. Sterling is quoted as saying:

Defending men accused of crime is a legitimate part of any attorney's business, but his duty to his client requires only that he endeavor to see that his client gets justice, and the lawyer's duty to the state requires that he go no farther than this. To see that his client gets an acquittal when he is avowedly guilty of

Announcement
Tajferro Estates

THE beautiful Greenfield Country Club Golf Course is to be divided into home-sites.
THE fine turf and the trees and shrubs make this the prettiest home-site development Birmingham has had.
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bootlegging or any other crime is to aid in a miscarriage of justice and to encourage crime. Now this action by Mr. Sterling means something in Berrien county. If the best lawyers everywhere would adopt this same policy the path of the bootlegger would not be so attractive. In other words, the lawyer by his clients—Muriel F. Deane in The Charlotte (Mich.) Republican.

STATE HIGHWAY FUNDS

The recent startling events in reference to the financial condition of the state and highway funds, that have come out has brought about all to appear on the republican ticket in the primaries for governor, in opposition to Governor Groesbeck. This would make a square deal, but

issue for the campaign—a constitutional state government against a one man rule. There is not a man in the state who could better meet the conditions that exist in the state, or who has the ability to straighten them out, than has Mayor Green.

His long and successful experience in the city government, and his successful business men in the state, in the line of his own worth, and ability was needed it is now, in the governor's chair of the State of Michigan—Saranac (Mich.) Advertiser.

DUE TO THE HOME TOWN

What do you owe your home town? Whatever the bill is, none will be paid by your payment. The debt is an intangible one, no matter how large it is. If you do not realize this, you know what the town has done for you, and you know better than any man they have done for you.

When your wife and children were critically ill, was it the doctor from the town who pulled them through?

You didn't even think of calling him, your first thought was of the home town doctor, and he saved the lives of your dear ones.

When you lost your job, who gave you credit and tilted you over the winter?

It certainly wasn't the store in the town that advertised "bargains" for the country shopper. The merchant on "Front street" or "Main street" is the one who has by his courtesy, and as he will again, some time when the emergency rises.

If these things have not happened to you they have happened to your neighbors, and you know about them. Mere money cannot pay for disinterested service such as the doctor and the merchant render under the circumstances. And they are not cited with the idea of waking a feeling of obligation toward those individuals who render us signal service on extraordinary occasions brought up, rather with the view to making every man, woman and child realize his partnership in the community and his responsibility in that partnership which means so much to him.

The doctor and the merchant are the only men toward whom others in the community owe this obligation to maintain the community as a self-sustaining entity. They are simply given as we are given, and the obligations work out concretely. They are among the leaders who are called to the service of the town in the time of need, and all for the well-being of its people and their future as a community. On the basis of the idea of waking a feeling of obligation toward those individuals who render us signal service on extraordinary occasions brought up, rather with the view to making every man, woman and child realize his partnership in the community and his responsibility in that partnership which means so much to him.

The cure effected by the doctor and the credit extended by the merchant are two specific instances of benefits coming to the resident of the small town. There are not the benefits, for their number is legion. In good times as well as hard times some benefits are not restricted by the season of the year or limited to periods of necessity. Like the gentle rain from heaven, about which Portia speaks so benignly in her famous court room speech to Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice," Shakespeare's masterpiece, these benefits fall upon "just" and "unjust" alike. Nobody is shut out from their enjoyment.

For instance, there are the schools. Everybody pays toward their support in proportion to his ability to pay. They are open to all children, and by their precept and example they are helping your boys and girls to their place in the state requires that they be young a bigger share in life, and lay before them the high ideals of our democracy. They show the son

of the rail splitter the road to the president's chair.

The church is another institution that makes community life pleasant. THE OTHER CHAP—Continued for every member of the family. It stands for a better community all around. As the word is used here it refers to all creeds, and is in no sense to be considered in its sectarian or denominational significance. Pastors are leaders in all good causes, and they rally their congregations to civic wholesome in the life of the community.

Happiness and contentment bring about also a rich social life. You get together with your neighbors in moments of relaxation from your day's toil and enjoy intercourse with them. Clubs and organizations unite you in bonds that hold you together for one purpose or another.

A score of other things might be mentioned, but space forbids. For instance, there is the library, with its rich storehouse of the world's literature. Also, there are the material things that minister to the comfort and well being of the people. Among them are paved or macadamized streets, concrete sidewalks, corner lights, police protection, a fire department, electric or some other system of lighting for the home; gas, water, sewer, and similar improvements and conveniences.

The strength of the community spirit the more of these there are. The taxes you pay settle the bills for the things acquired; the weight of co-operation with the progressive leaders assures others in the future. The home town spirit is the only one that patronize home town enterprise.—Royal Oak (Mich.) Daily Tribune.

Restaurant Customer (unfamiliar with French and wishing not to expose his ignorance). Waiter, I think I'll try some of this.

Waiter: Sorry sir, the orchestra happens to be playing that now.

(Cop to automobile victim): You say you didn't see the license number? Could you swear to the man's? Victim: Well, I did, but I don't think he heard me.—London Teller.

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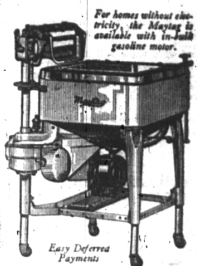
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