

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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A PIONEER AND OUR HERITAGE

"Tall timber is always marked for the woodsman's axe. Men and women, born to but a brief moment in eternity's cycle, live their days and return to that mystic land from whence they came. They leave their trails amidst the tragedy and the gaiety that continues after them. Trees grow in varying ways, some of them shoot straight upward, gradually unfolding drooping branches that shelter the weary traveller from the heat of the noonday sun, while others may become bent and gnarled, ungainly and affording more bare branches than foliage.

The passing this week of Almeron Whitehead, one of Birmingham's pioneer citizens, is comparable to the ultimate fate of many of Birmingham's present shade trees; with the passing of time and the inroads of social progress, this village is destined to lose most of its old landmarks. Mr. Whitehead came to Birmingham when it was but a swaddling "four corners," 17 miles from the then small town of Detroit. Forty-eight years ago his name stood at the top of this column, and his pen indited the first editorial that ever appeared in The Birmingham Eccentric, for, you will remember, together with George H. Mitchell, of Brown street, Mr. Whitehead started this newspaper.

Gradually the woodsman's axe is felling the big trees of Birmingham. Steadily the graves of Greenwood Cemetery are claiming the pioneer citizens of this community. What a heritage they left us! What a beautiful village they planned so many years ago and, with community pledges and untiring efforts to keep it strictly residential, what a fine four-square town they have handed over to the present generation!

It is regrettable that Mr. Whitehead passed away on almost the eve of a day when local citizens will be given a chance to continue the things that make Birmingham beautiful, namely: the propositions contained in Thursday's bond issue for a municipal site, public library, and fire hall. Had he lived we feel certain that Mr. Whitehead would have voted "Yes" on all three issues—for that's the kind of plan that Birmingham has always stood for.

What shall we do with the Birmingham that our fathers have handed over to us? If we be true to their memory can we do ought else but lend our aid to a bigger and better Birmingham?

SCRAPS OF PAPER

It is disheartening to witness the crumbling of hopes for universal peace, but it is futile to ignore them. Although the situation is as yet not hopeless, it appears that the League of Nations must eventually go the way of all other idealistic enterprises for the pacification of mankind.

Treaties pledging security, agreements providing for arbitration of differences between nations, pacts excluding hideous methods of warfare—all these have been solemnly entered into in the past. But with what result?

Experience has proven over and over again that among the most advanced nations of a boasted Christian civilization the cynical slogan, "necessity knows no law," still prevails.

Long before the World War the integrity of Belgium was agreed to by the European powers, including Germany; all the great powers agreed in 1899 to refrain from the use of poisonous gases; the destruction of helpless non-combatants was universally banned by common consent. Yet Germany invaded Belgium; she began the use of poisonous gases at Ypres; she destroyed non-combatants in submarine and aerial warfare. Nearly every treaty or convention made by Germany became a "scrap of paper" at the command of necessity. Other nations have not been blameless in this respect by any means.

In 1922, at the Naval Arms Reduction Conference, the great powers again agreed to refrain from the use of gases in war, yet the United States and all the rest are working with feverish haste to devise more effective and terrible agencies of gas warfare than ever before.

Reverting to the League of Nations, Brazil has withdrawn. Spain may do so, the admission of Germany is still problematical, several nations are engaged in a selfish controversy regarding seats in the Council. Not a single disturbing element has been eliminated from world politics since the World War, while many new ones have been created.

Treaties look fine in print, but when the urge of necessity comes they usually prove to be only "scraps of paper." Who was it said, many years ago, "You cannot worship both God and Mammon"?

RAW MATERIAL IN MAN

When one is inclined to swell up over the thought of one's importance in the world it might be well to reflect on one's actual value in the market at the rate of 60 cents a hundred pounds. A scientist has estimated the constituents of the average man, weight about 150. In that body there is enough fat to make seven bars of soap, enough salt to fill a small shaker, iron to make two 2-penny nails, lime to whewash two chicken coops, and enough sulphur to kill the fleas on the average dog. Thus the genus homo ranges in value from about 60 cents to around \$1.80.

Valuable animal! A hog is worth a lot more. Consideration of one's bodily constituents convinces that man is made of pretty common material. Soap-grease isn't pleasant stuff to handle, yet there is more of that in volume than anything else. The scientist's analysis is not even as gratifying as the Biblical statement in regard to mud, for dust becomes mud when it is wet. The expenditure for raw material is not great. That much is clear. This is one side of the subject.

When we reflect on what that combination of soap grease, whitewash and other ingredients is able to do when mixed properly we are forced to the conclusion that it was a remarkable job. Certainly there was little work when such material was used and the result is all the more creditable when the output acts according to the original design and fulfills the purpose of its stay on earth. It demonstrates that a good product can be made from discouraging elements. Not that every person is good, but that the idea back of the product was good. How the individual acts determines whether he is just a mixture, or vastly more than that, is a man according to the design of the Creator.

Of course there is more going into the real man than the chemist can find in his analysis, and that is what lifts man above the rest of creation, makes him more than so much raw material. If it were not so, man would be of about the least value conceivable. It lies with the individual to determine whether one is a mixture or a man. One can be either.

Take pains with your work or you will get pains out of it.

Jealousy is a green-eyed monster, but it may turn one or both of your eyes black.

When a man leaves his wife she hasn't lost half so much as she thinks she has.

When denying yourself some pleasure, be sure you gain at least as much as you lose.

The joy of doing something for yourself is doubled if you know someone else wants you to do it.

Work hard and save your money so your children won't have the troubles which made a man of you.

Another thing that persuades a young married man to settle down and attend to business is an annual set of twins.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Just Bits of News, Cleared From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up the Historical Background of the Birmingham of Today

43 YEARS AGO. Mrs. Lewis Simpson returned home from her Pennsylvania and New York trip on Tuesday last. She expressed herself as well pleased with her visit among her friends and relatives.

Bert Raynale, Mr. F. Hagerman's general clerk, takes a two weeks' vacation beginning next week. He will visit Corona and other places during his absence.

Harry Wattles of Troy met with a very serious accident on Saturday last. While drawing some rail timber from the woods, a log rolled by, glanced and striking his foot and leg, his ankle was broken, the fracture extending down into the tibia, making a very painful and dangerous injury. Dr. Raynale made the sufferer as comfortable as possible.

Mitchell's wife is away and she hadn't been gone twenty-four hours before he was offering \$2.00 a yard for calico and taking bromide of potash by the barrel. Beats all how easily little brains get rattled.

That rain last week was a very wet one.

James O. Beattie, our wide awake undertaker and business like lively man, attending a funeral in five days last week and accomplished all the arrangements in his usual prompt and affable manner.

Miss Lena Blakeslee of this place and Miss Jennie Hanna of South Lyon are visiting acquaintances and relatives in Lansing this week.

Mrs. E. K. Potter and children of Alpena visited their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. M. I. James last week.

25 YEARS AGO. Sunday guests at George Dawson's were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cunningham, Mrs. Burrows of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. Burrows of this place, Mr. and Mrs. John Tom of near Circle, Miss McAlpin and Miss Maudie Starr of Royal Oak.

A gentleman of our acquaintance whose name we dare not divulge at this writing says that Miss Jennie Keyes is visiting in Southfield where she has great interests at stake.

Married Friday, August 2, 1901, in Detroit, Garner Miller of Easton, Pa., and Miss Emma Reed of this place. Their many friends in this vicinity wish them a long life of happiness.

Work has commenced on the new M. E. parsonage. Land was purchased of Mrs. Thurlby and it will be built with a wider drive way than formerly and also farther back from the street.

Herbert C. Prince of Winnebago, Nebraska, is visiting among his relatives in Birmingham and Southfield friends. Very few remember him from his appearance now, which is a type of the successful westerner.

On Friday night about 12 o'clock Eddie McHugh who arrived home on a late car discovered two men acting very suspiciously around the residence of Dr. N. S. Shaw. The young man watched them for some time and becoming convinced that they were attempting to break into the doctor's house made his presence known and with the help of little "Trip" the doctor's dog, scared them so badly that they beat a hasty retreat and are probably running yet. Who the men were is a mystery, but it is supposed they were tramps.

much to say about the opposition of sore heads and discredited politicians, but a careful analysis of the present situation, sentiment and personnel of the opposition will certainly convince the unprejudiced citizen that there are a great many voters in Michigan who are opposed to Mr. Groesbeck's nomination for a fourth term who are just ordinary plain citizens, having no other political aspiration nor an eye to grand and are prompted by unselfish motives, while the loud shouters in the Groesbeck camp are to a large extent job hunters and those seeking personal advantages.

Michigan's road building program will not cease nor suffer should some other person be elected as governor. A new deal might lead to the discovery of "where we are at" in road construction. It may cause a detour in the half-million turning hose of hundreds of thousands of dollars which the state has borne a heavy expense in putting where they belong. It may lead to the state getting something approximating a dollar's worth of road construction for every hundred dollars paid out for that purpose. It may lead to a road construction policy based on public needs.

Michigan needs those things more than it needs a fourth term governor. It can't have both—W. N. Miller in Farmington (Mich.) Enterprise.

THE WET THEORY.

A New York newspaper is sending a number of reporters out over this broad and happy land to gather facts about the violation of the Volstead law and the Eighteenth amendment. The theory of the New York newspaper is that by showing violations of the law and disregard and hostility to the amendment a case will be made for the modification of the Volstead law or a repeal of the amendment. It does look reasonable. But it is not. For it would be just as easy to violate any law or any constitutional amendment in the same way. As for instance, if the New York editor will send his bright young men out through the United States to consider the amount of larceny, either in high circles, by bankers, or in low circles, by stick-up men, sneak thieves, burglars and check raisers, the New York editor will find that the Fourteenth amendment needs modification, or repeal, just as bad as the Eighteenth amendment.

The disregard of the Fourteenth amendment about lifting property without due process of law, is producing a terrible moral in the country. It is fair to argue that we should either have some law which will sanction pick-pocketing, chicken-stealing, and the lighter forms of larceny, or perhaps better, government ownership where thieves could dispose of their smaller wares without legal annoyance. It's a great strain on personal liberty of millions of people to have to get their property under due process of law while virtually hundreds of thousands of others are getting it openly and flagrantly in violation of the Fourteenth amendment.

And, anyway, the facts about stealing prove that you can't make people good by laws. That is for the church and the home. Let the wets send their bright young men out through the states and see what they can dig up. They will find the violators of the Fourteenth amendment are filling the penitentiaries, crowding taxes on an overburdened people and literally breaking down the good old traditions of our government.

It's a poor analogy that can't be used here, but it is in William Allen White in Emporia (Kan.) Gazette.

During a flood in Serbia a 15-year-old girl single-handed saved the lives of 13 persons.

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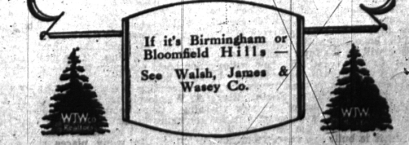
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