THE REVIEW

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W. T. LAMEY, Editor and Publisher.

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LOUNSBERY LODGE, No. 751, A. F. & A. M., meets second and fourth Saturday evenings at Masonic hall.

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MAYFLOWER CAMP, No. 2562, R. N. A., meets first and third Monday evenings at Masonic hall.

BARRINGTON LODGE, No. 499, MYSTIC WORKERS OF THE WORLD, meets second and fourth Thursday at Rodt's hall.

GENERAL SHERMAN POST, No. 278, G. A. R., meets second Friday of each month in G. A. R. hall.

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS No. 85, meets the second Wednesday in each month at G. A. R. hall.

Sleep and Snap.

The up to date scientist has opened fire upon another time honored tradition by declaring that the sleepy head is not the one who sleeps too much. One British physiologist has declared that growing school children need more sleep, and several prominent physicians have united in an appeal to the public to let the young, especially the boys, sleep. They say that the "early to bed" part of the popular axiom is too often lost sight of, and parents lay too great stress upon the "early to rise" end as a maker of health, wealth and wisdom.

The physiological side is that too little sleep lessens a boy's power of ready attention on work and causes slackness and weariness in gaines. Nine to ten hours' sleep is declared essential for the average boy of thirteen to sixteen years of age if he is expected to be bright and awake as his father and teacher would have him. The lying in bed part can be safely left with the boy, but the early going to bed and to sleep may call for parental interference, although it is doubtful if the strap would operate as a soporific. Sick people may sleep themselves well, and the weak may sleep themselves strong. A boy is a growing animal, and most animals sleep much.

Somebody of the arithmetical tendency figured out that Count Witte will have to raise $1,250,000,000 to run Russia this year. He will probably be able to do it. The impression, gained by short cuts in thinking, that Russia has been demolished is a wrong one. There are bad things in her government, but there is a great deal that is pernicious to the opposition to it. The army is true to the czar, and the people will probably get as liberal a system of government as the revolters will accept. If they reject overtures the bayonet will play a part again.

It is said of Marshall Field that none took more precautions than he against unguarded exposure to taking cold. Whenever entering a room from the open air, in any season but summer, it was his invariable rule to remove his overcoat even if for only a step of a few minutes. It was the irony of fate that, after all, he should die of pneumonia, as that Edward Atkinson, the apostle of simple living, should have died of acute indigestion.

War on a large scale has not become much more costly than it was fifty years ago. Russia's scrap with Japan cost her a trifle over a billion dollars in a year and a half. It cost the United States about $4,000,000,000 to conquer the south, and the conflict lasted four years.

The silver wedding of Emperor William will be celebrated on Feb. 27, and they say the kaiser has decided to make this an occasion for a grand world assuring gesture of peace, conciliation and good will to all.

There are one eighty-two in the departments at Washington who have reached the age of seventy. One of these veterans is a woman who is past eighty.

One High Human Standard.

The superiority of this country over other nations is attributed to the quality of its peopoopy. Pierre Leroy-Beaulieu, whose recent study, entitled "The United States In the Twentieth Century," has been translated by H. Addington Bruce. To quote:

From the days of the pilgrim fathers, who expatriated themselves in order that they might establish on the rude shores of Massachusetts a government resting on the principles they derived from the Bible—from their days to the days of the modern immigrants, twenty millions of whom have settled in the United States during the past seventy-five years—the Americans have been the product of selection of a double selection. Only the boldest, the most enterprising of men have the courage to traverse the sea for the purpose of carving out a new life in an unknown and distant land. They, having arrived, only the most energetic, the strongest and most gifted in the spirit of organization, succeed in a struggle which is more severe, more merciless to the feeble, in new countries than in old ones. That America, so to speak, has secured the cream of old world society. That is why the human standard is higher there than in other countries.

This writer thinks that the native element has all along been able to inspire the vast body of newcomers with the spirit of the early colonists, from whom it inherits its own traditions and ideals. This has been done the more readily because immigration has been largely of the same nationality as the original settlers or at least of strains of blood and culture readily assimilable. In a word, the substratum of our population everywhere is of native American stock and Americanized sons and grandsons of immigrants.

Evolution and Moral Freedom.

"Whenever we have great spiritual initiative there the theory of natural evolution must retire," says Dr. P. T. Forsythe in the London Quarterly Review. The tendency indeed of evolution, he avers, is to crush out that initiative and to suppress forever the individual which for a moment it evoked. Its failure in this respect is one of the reasons why it is an unsatisfactory solvent of the world's mystery. The initiative he refers to takes the form of sudden appearances of well developed variations in the moral and spiritual world. To quote:

I allude, for instance, to the emergence, at very early and immature stages, of men uniquely endowed, who carry genius to a pitch which all after ages can but submit to admire afar. Homer, Virgil and Dante to say nothing of the Hebrew prophets, may have appeared on the summit of particular civilizations, but they belong to the race more than to epochs, nations or civilizations, and in the history of the race they appeared early and not late. Great men are not made by their milieu, which gives them no more than a field and form. It provides them a language, it offers them their problems and presents them the issues. But the answers are latent in the miraculous quality of their native genius and not inhaled by them from the spirit of their age. They are not orators who absorb a vapor and give it forth as a flood. They are prophets whose spiritual quality is an original but rational mystery and whose revelation is as secret in its source as it is fertile in its course.

Moral freedom, the writer asserts, is impossible on a theory of natural selection, and with moral freedom "vanishes the initiative which is the real spring of human progress and the real condition of glory."

It is more than two years ago that Thomas Nast, the retired cartoonist, died down in Ecuador, where he was our counsel at Guayaquil, and his relatives have just been informed of his this country. It is explained that the casket containing the body was lost en route, and the transportation company was sued by the government. But before the case was settled the casket was found and again started on its way. It is a grim tale, but there is still no difficulty in filling the Guayaquil consulship as often as it becomes vacant, by death or otherwise, as it very frequently does.

Clement K. Shorter, editor of London Sphere, has been showing up what he calls the best selling book fake, which flourishes even more extensively in England than it does on this side of the water. Over there, as here, the lists are collected from various towns and printed in certain newspapers and periodicals. Mr. Shorter, examining these lists, found one book listed as a "best seller" three weeks before publication. This gave the whole snap deal away, so to speak.

A bill introduced into the New York legislature making certain specific provisions against gratuity was amended by eliminating the word "grafting" for the reason, as explained by the judiciary committee, that the word has not yet taken its place in the judicial vocabulary. It is about time that the omission was made good.

In his hunt for grafters Lincoln Steffens now and then hits upon one of the other kind. Recently he has given the mayor of Jersey City a "write-up" as a magistrate who runs his town on what may be called the gospel plan and makes it work.

We dare not imagine the language Andrew Jackson Hobley D— Evans employed when he read in the papers that Secretary Bonaparte might court martial him.

With a lot of returned soldiers who are looking for jobs, Japan is finding that peace hath its problems no less than war.

Journalism and Romance.

Walter Wellman's serial trip in search of the north pole, with the backing of a newspaper, has good precedents in the field of journalistic exploitations. Stanley found Livingstone in the heart of darkest Africa for the New York Herald, and this was the beginning of great enterprises backed by newspapers in emergencies where other resources were wanting.

Over thirty years ago an attempt to explore the upper air currents for a key to aerial navigation was backed by a newspaper, the New York Daily Graphic, then a new venture and much in need of an advertising boom. In the first year of its publication the Graphic financed an ascension at New York, directed by Washington Donaldson, for the purpose of testing the theory which the aged aeronaut, John Wise, had advocated almost half a century. Wise believed that there is an air current moving eastward which would carry a balloon to Europe, and once he sailed from St. Louis to Jefferson county, N. Y., in the path of this alleged current. He tried in vain to get the government and various scientific bodies to finance his scheme of crossing the Atlantic, and finally the Graphic took it up. The ascension was a failure, but bad results justified the hope of the aeronaut the company would have supplied funds for further experiments.

The Herald was well advertised by Stanley's wonderful expedition in search of Livingstone, yet the project was undertaken in a serious spirit and carried out with dignity. It made an explorer out of a journalist and accelerated the opening up of darkest Africa to civilization. The second expedition, which was to the lake region of equatorial Africa, Stanley was financed by the New York Herald and London Daily Telegraph jointly. Some years later, when the novelty of exploration had as an advertising medium been dulled, at least for the New York Herald, the younger Bennett fitted out the ill starred De Long expedition to explore the farthest north.

RURAL DELIVERY.

Interesting Figures of the Country Mail Service in the United States.

William E. Curtis has compiled some very interesting statistics regarding the growth and development of the rural mail service in the United States. Among other things he shows that Illinois leads the list of states in the number of carriers and amount of money expended, with Ohio a close second. The latter state, on account of being more thickly populated, has the greatest number of families served.

On the 30th of June last there were 32,055 rural carriers on the road. Since then, up till the first of January, 2,095 have been appointed, making a total of 34,060. Of these 250 are women, some of whom have been employed for a number of years. On account of the rigorous nature of the duties, women are not appointed except in cases where no men applicants are found upon the eligible registers. As a general proposition, however, the supervisors testify unanimously that women have shown themselves to be just as capable and efficient as men.

The morale of the rural carriers is remarkably good, and always has been. Out of 43,669 employes, only 214 were discharged for cause last year, of whom only 29 were dishonest and 30 had violated instructions or regulations of the service. It is doubtful whether any other organization, either public or private, can show so good a record.

At the same time there have been numerous instances where the greatest heroism and nerve have been exhibited, and an extraordinary devotion to duty during storms, wash-outs, floods and blizzards, when the carriers continued their service regardless of danger and suffering. The rules of the department do not make any allowance for the weather. The regulations require every carrier to start at a certain hour and maintain a regular schedule, and arrive at given points at approximately the same moment day after day; and they are required to cover a prescribed distance and make their circuit without deviating therefrom under any circumstances, sick or well, storm or sunshine, and they do it. The number of complaints is very small; the cases requiring discipline are very few.

The rural delivery mail service in the United States is nearly ten years old, although the first appropriation by congress for experimental service was made thirteen years ago, in 1893. Postmaster General Bissell, however, refused to expend it. The Cleveland administration was dead against the scheme. Mr. Bissell declared that the farmers did not want their mail matter brought to their homes. Subsequent proceedings have shown how easy it is to be mistaken.

Read the new Primary Law in our next issue.

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