

## The Balance of Things

By A. W. THOMPSON.

"You are only half of yourself. The other half is what you make of yourself, your personal significance in things, the ego reflected as your contribution towards the general hurly-burly."

"You balance an ounce of personality by an ounce of something accomplished, an obligation to humanity by a cash receipt, a step backward by two forward, to-day, to-morrow, and the day after."

"The problem of making and re-making, shaping and reshaping, that which you call your destiny, is the most delightful occupation between your first and seventeenth birthdays. You are forever loading or unloading the scales. And the hard-worked pen is no more balanced than you set out to rebalance, in improvement, as you hope."

"You cannot have both the penny and the toffee. Being human, you will not give something for nothing, and wild horses will not prevent you from taking the toffee. But, if you grasp both pans, you commit a sin against society, and are clapped into prison."

"On the other hand, if you decline to do any balancing because you want to stick to your penny, you are doing no more trade, or whatever may be your activity. If everyone stops dead in this fashion the world stops going, like a clock that has run down."

"What you must do is to balance and rebalance the scales a hundred times per day, to suit a hundred exigencies, and again at night to suit the fellows who have tilted against you. This means that you keep faith with both nature and humanity."

"You will perceive that this bag of pennies, toffee, morality, and jangling scales comprise the stuff of which life is compounded. As things naturally cannot stand still, but must ever go forwards or backwards, you really cannot cease dabbling with those scales. In three score and ten years you will have millions of balances to adjust and readjust."

"But on one point you must be inflexible, to make sure the balance is dead true after each weighing, and before you start the next. When folk cannot or will not attend to this point they are commonly described as having bees in their bonnets, or as even more unsavoury epithets are applied."

"That the point is often forgotten is deplorable, but this is an imperfect world. In point of fact, quite a number of sound people at times find difficulty in getting the old scales to work properly."

"If you cannot acquire the knack of balancing things you are drifting towards becoming a public nuisance, or else towards the workhouse. The world is a confused medley of tiffs for rats, eyes for eyes, teeth for teeth, measure for measure, and pay and take (the parable of the penny and the toffee)."

"Nothing stands without a prop. Everything has its value or counterpoise. You would think that the scales must be somewhat the worse for wear. Every moment of your life you must face the music, the other pan of the balance. There is no escape; it will get at you to restore the poise sooner or later, and somehow or other. The old scales garishly expose the trickiness of life. Truly the world is like an algebraical equation. Turn it how you will, side to side, top to bottom, it must come to some balance."

"If you sit down with a bundle of foolscap and attempt to make out a list of the paradoxes and tit-for-tats that make up so much that is problematical in your own life, you are almost certain to conclude that the gods have ill-favoured you. With the fatuity of mankind you will probably blame everyone but yourself for the way things have panned out."

"You will frequently adopt the grapes to cover yourself. Yet you will perceive one great and unexpected blessing in the background. You will see that no man ever had a defect that was not somehow useful to him. As each unit for one purpose, so, in proportion, and by the use of those ancient scales, are you weighed out for another. The situation here has something of noblesse oblige, for your very infirmity imposes its obligations, its own balance."

"Humanity is expected to balance the pans. We are given things in a haphazard, an exceedingly medley package, like a thief's loot sack. The job is to sort it out, weighing one thing against another in a way that will reasonably insure life going on in civilisation, sufficiency, and peace."

Chambers Journal.

## A Miraculous Escape From Death

BRANTFORD, Ont., Aug. 7.—From the pilot of a Toronto-Hamilton and Buffalo train which had smashed his car so badly that it was not worth bringing into a garage, Harry Miller was taken to the Brantford General Hospital where he is reported being well. Miller dropped through the bottom of the car when the train crossing the Jerseyville road crumpled it up. The train crew picked him off the cowcatcher 400 yards from the crossing. That he escaped instant death is considered miraculous.

CONFEDERATION LIFE.



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- SPONGE BAGS** . . . . .70c. 90c.
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- BARRETT'S, all latest style.**
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- LADIES' CORSETS.**
- MEN'S UNDERWEAR.**
- LADIES' UNDERWEAR.**
- Also a very large assortment of Pound Goods, in Flannels, Flette, Gingham, Art Ticks, Shirting, Calico, etc., etc.
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**MEN'S WHITE H. S. HANDKERCHIEFS.**  
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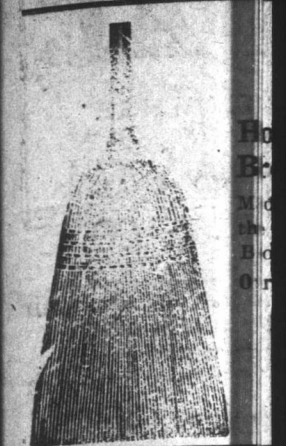
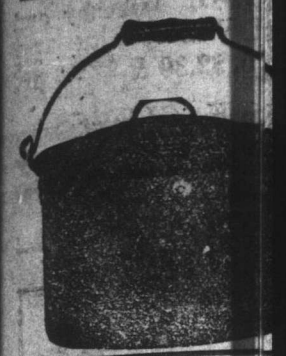
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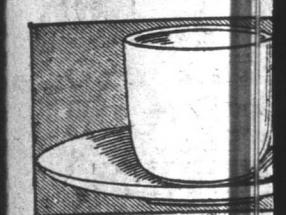
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