

The Planet.

R. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

Business Office .. 55

Editorial Room .. 102

SATURDAY, MAY 28.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DIS-HONESTY.

The Windsor Record says:—
Those at the head of public affairs work in the glare of the "fierce light that beats upon the throne." Consequently their actions are open to public scrutiny. Investigation is a matter which concerns the public and it is, as a rule, thoroughly accomplished.

The legislature of the State of Massachusetts has passed a bill for the suppression of bribery or dishonesty in private business. It is said that the department stores and the railroads are specially great sufferers from this form of corruption, and that the purchasing agents of large concerns profit to such an extent that often grow rich on very moderate salaries. In a recent number of one of the monthly magazines there was an article on "Graft in Private Business" by an anonymous writer, who was vouched for by the editor as the president of one of the best known manufacturing corporations of the country. This writer expressed it as his settled conviction that corruption was vastly more common in private business than in public affairs.

"Corruption in public affairs," he said, "is almost sure to be unearthed some time with a great hullabaloo, but in private affairs it may be hidden for years even from the owners of the business, and should they find it out they will stop the leak but rarely reveal the disgrace."

A similar measure to that of the Massachusetts legislature was discussed in Great Britain a year or so ago, when legislation was under consideration for the benefit of co-operative societies, whose buyers are subject to great temptations, but it appeared before the discussion had been long continued that in many cases private firms were in as great need of protection as the co-operative societies.

Integrity in private business should proceed that of public business, if the two cannot go hand in hand, just as public morality should follow upon private morality. It would be a great deal better if competent employees were well paid for their services so that they would feel a proprietary interest in their employer's business. Andrew Carnegie has found the system of profit sharing to work well. Any system that would make a capable man feel that his interest was also his employer's, and vice-versa, would be a long way ahead of any legislation that could be enacted to suppress the loose methods on the part of agents and others in positions of trust.

IS AMERICAN LITERATURE BOURGEOIS?

Gertrude Atherton has aroused mild indignation in the United States by charging American literature with being bourgeois, points out the Toronto Star. American literature protests rather feebly that it has a history, traditions, and one or two salons in centres of culture like Chicago and San Francisco. It looks almost like a plea of guilty.

It all depends, of course, on what Mrs. Atherton considers bourgeois. It is just possible that her taste may be finicky. A lady who writes on a subject like "The Rulers of Kings" is apt to be supercilious with regard to topics less splendid. In fact, Mrs. Atherton has always shown a tendency to circulate only in the best families for the purposes of fiction. Her biographical novel, "The Conquerors"—if we remember rightly—dealt with the aristocrats who established the republic of the United States. It was remarkable for its glorification of a frail woman, the mother of Alexander Hamilton, and handled the seventh commandment with measured contempt. This suggests that Mrs. Atherton brushes American literature aside as bourgeois because it is not cynical enough to rise above morals. Her sojourns in the capitals of Europe may have taught her to shrug her shoulders at the social regulations of the decalogue. A great open mind like hers would naturally be influenced by foreign habits of thought and moral attitudes. An American writer who has been abroad must show something for it either in the way of an accent or a polished indifference toward local standards. Mrs. Atherton probably had the accent before she went away, and consequently the tone of mind was what she had to acquire.

The author of "The Conquerors," as we have seen favors high personages in her works—a tendency which is quite American, and not by any means confined to Mrs. Atherton. Indeed, many American novels lately

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It will cure them quickly and strengthen their lungs. It is pleasant to take. Prices, 25c., 50c., and \$1.00. 306

have been based on the enterprise of some handsome American who mixes himself up with a Balkan State, marries the princess, and turns the crown into a joint stock company. A choice of subjects like that hardly answers Mrs. Atherton's conception of being bourgeois, unless—perish the thought—it is vulgar and middle class to run after titles. Along this line the charge fails to get ground because Mrs. Atherton is addicted that way herself. It follows that there is something in the tone of American literature which renders it bourgeois to a soul attuned to delicate shades of feeling.

It may be that the diction of American novels is slovenly, that characterization is unskilled, and that the types treated are humble and inconspicuous. But all these are the result of environment. American writers should not be called bourgeois because they reflect their age and surroundings. If they went abroad like Mrs. Atherton, they could probably touch finer issues quite as competently. As a matter of fact, the country is too new to have an atmosphere and imagination cannot compensate for the lack of it, because imagination is smothered in the commercial instinct of the nation. Sentiment is a rare and perishable flower. It cannot grow in arid places. Joking aside, this is what Mrs. Atherton probably means by calling American literature bourgeois, although she may be misconstrued through not explaining her objections more fully. There is only too much truth in the statement that current American literature is hard and banal. It is not that the personages of fiction are poorly chosen; but that the ability to see beauty in common, everyday things has vanished. The faculty of sentiment which made "The Scarlet Letter" an immortal work has dwindled. In its place there is levity, exaggeration, and a disposition to make smart sayings—that being the trend of literature in a democracy. Where there are so many average intelligences to address, the impulse is to say the thing that will startle, rather than the thing that will please by its correct and reserve power. In the more ordered societies of Europe, literature has its good manners. In the United States it is often rude and overbearing.

This, we have no doubt, is the bourgeois habit to which Mrs. Atherton refers. It is a habit that can be outgrown because it is a habit not of long standing. There was a time when American literature had nothing to borrow from Europe. Washington Irving wrote in the style of Addison; Hawthorne's language is as simply beautiful as Goldsmith's; Lowell composed like a gentleman and a scholar; Holmes' badinage was courtly and graceful; Emerson and Thoreau bowed to no one in philosophical outlook and urbanity of expression. What has been done can be done again. American literature need not be bourgeois if it will give itself a chance.

WHERE HONOR IS DUE.

Hamilton Spectator.

This is Empire Day, originated by Mrs. Fessenden, of this city, and not by Hon. Mr. Ross, who takes credit for it.

Weaver's Syrup

Cures all humors of the blood permanently. No need to suffer with
ERYSIPELAS
SALT RHEUM
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can be found in future at
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Geo. E. Embrey
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LITTLE, BUT—OH MY!

Brockville Recorder.
The old theory about big men making the best soldiers is being severely jarred by the success of the Japs.

THE CHANCE OF THEIR LIVES.

Stratford Herald.
Every young man in Stratford is wanted! Wanted from the street corners, from the loafers' rendezvous, from the idlers' promenade, to turn his steps into the highway of noble aim and earnest work. There are prizes enough for every successful worker, crowns enough for every honorable head that goes through the smoke of conflict to victory.

CAN PROVE AN ALIBI.

Toronto Globe.
Carrie Nation the other day punched with her umbrella a hole in a portrait of President Roosevelt, remarking "he's a smoker and a chewer." This incident has led to the publication of the fact that he is the only president since Hayes of whom it could be said that he has never used tobacco.

SILENCE PROVES NOTHING.

Peterboro Review.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier told the House that if Mr. Emmerson had been opposed to his railway, he would have resigned. That won't do. Sir Wilfrid tried in vain to persuade Mr. Blair to retain his portfolio and hide his opposition in silence. He has apparently been more successful with Mr. Emmerson.

DECAY OF THE DOWAGER.

Truth.
The decay of the dowager is a feature of the moment which is causing grave anxiety to those English men and women who look forward. "France needs nothing so much, to promote her regeneration, as good mothers," declared Napoleon; will a philosophical Englishman soon exclaim, "England needs nothing so much to prevent her degeneration, as good grandmothers."

PRESIDENTS DON'T GO.

Montreal Star.
An esteemed contemporary predicts that Mr. Fielding will bring down the budget about the first week in June. It should not be taken for granted that the budget will be brought down by the finance minister at all. We know it is usual, but then it is usual for government railway bills to be introduced by the minister of railways.

THE OLD FLAG GOOD ENOUGH.

Toronto Telegram.
The Union Jack unadorned is adorned the most.
Canada's flag is the Union Jack undisfigured by the dingy circle that is supposed to represent the arms of the provinces, that looks more like the north end of a beer keg just after its head has been knocked in. Each British nation in the empire can assert its individuality without despoiling the Union Jack of its beauty.

LORDLY WHIPS.

Liverpool Daily Post.
Leaders of the House of Commons have always believed that it is an advantage to have one or two lords among the whips of the party. In Mr. Gladstone's time he had the present Lord Stalbridge (then Lord Richard Grosvenor) and Lord Kensington. There are two noble lords among the whips of the Unionist party at present. According to Sir Carmichael, the advantage of having a titled whip is that some members would rather "be d—d by a lord than dined by a commoner."

WHEN BUILDING WAS CHEAP.

Toronto News.
In the days when "The Grange" was built houses were not so dear in Toronto. That was in 1817. Anyone who has seen "The Grange" will have noted this colonial fac-simile of an English manorial establishment is not only large, but well and solidly built. A visit to the interior tells the same story and reveals a sort of architecture which would have delighted the soul of an Anglo-Saxon king. In that rambling manor, with its paneled walls and dark, lofty ceilings and heavy carved balustrades, are carvings of walnut and oak; timber enough, if sold for furniture, to build ten large up-to-date houses in Toronto, even at the present extravagant cost of building. The walls are solid and the masonry in good condition. The outside pillars are of stone. The building, now the oldest brick house in Toronto, looks as though it might easily stand another half century. Yet, according to Mr. Goldwin Smith, the present occupant of "The Grange," this remarkable building was put up for the fabulous price of \$4,000!

A Floral Mystery.

The Chinese, Japanese and Siamese are peculiarly skillful at botanical feats. One of their wonderful achievements is known as the "changeable rose." This bloom is white in the shade and red in the sunlight. After night or in a dark room this curiosity of the rose family is a pure, waxy white blossom. When transferred to the open air, the transformation immediately steps in, the time of the entire change of the flower from white to red depending on the degree of sunlight and warmth. First the petals take on a kind of washed or faded blue color and rapidly change to a faint blush of pink. The pink gradually deepens in hue until you find that your lily white rose of an hour before is as red as the reddest peony that ever bloomed.



The Business Man

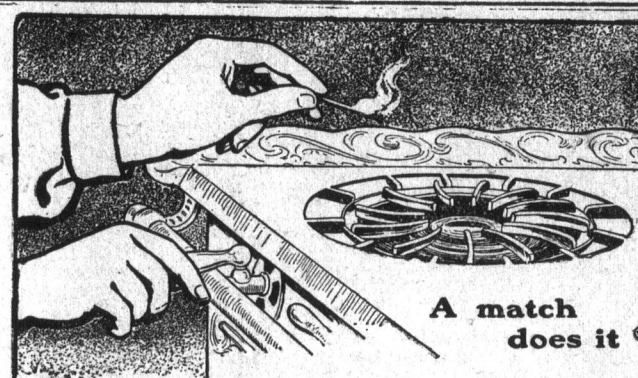
Though swift his business keeps bringing in wealth,
He groans, "What's the use, for I've now lost my health.
My friends were more careful, Abbey's Salt took each day,
And they are still young, while I'm old and gray."

When success depends on health, one can't afford to take risks with his digestive organs. A man can't think of business and biliousness together.

Many a serious error in judgement has been made because the brain has been fogged by an upset stomach or a torpid liver.

ABBEY'S SALT, taken in the morning keeps the blood cool, sends the business man to his office with active brain—and the mental and physical power to grasp every problem.

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Why should you burn fuel a long time before you start your cooking and keep a hot fire going a long time after you're through? That is what you have to do with a coal range. With the

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a match and a turn of the valve gives you immediate fire for boiling or frying. The same with the oven and broiler—they very quickly gain the proper heat. The Oxford Gas Range is ready for your cooking when you're ready and the fire is out the instant you're through. Write for our leaflet or call at one of our agencies.

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An empty compliment is usually worked for all there is in it.

Stratford, 4th Aug., 1893.
MESSRS. C. C. RICHARDS & CO.
Gentlemen,—My neighbor's boy, 4 years old, fell into a tub of boiling water and got scalded fearfully. A few days later his legs swelled to three times their natural size and broke out in running sores. His parents could get nothing to help him till I recommended MINARD'S LINIMENT, which, after using two bottles completely cured him, and I know of several other cases around here almost as remarkable, cured by the same Liniment and I can truly say I never handled a medicine which has had as good a sale or given such universal satisfaction.
M. HIBBERT,
General Merchant.

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ICE. ICE.

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J. L. SCOTT.

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