

SHIFT IN EARLY LIFE.

It Was the Start of the Fortunes of Our Greatest Financiers.

The early life of the great builders, the self-made financiers of this country, shows the early cultivation of the saving habit.

With few exceptions our Rockefeller, Hills, Harrimans, are men who endured great privations to save their first few hundreds or thousands of dollars.

But in the use of these savings these great men of business seemed most reckless.

Each in turn staked his all on a little known and decidedly shaky proposition and stuck with it until he won out.

Rockefeller put his few hundreds, saved from a bookkeeper's salary, into making a start in the oil business, a business so unknown at that time, so full of failures, that it was with the utmost difficulty he was able to borrow any additional funds when in desperate need.

James J. Hill staked his few savings, scraped together from his work as a dock laborer and clerk, on a well nigh bankrupt railroad, on which the experienced financiers of his day would scarcely lend a penny.

Ford staked his own savings on building a gas engine and a small car, of which it was the motive power. When he was ready to build his first cars there is no record of the banks or the big financiers of his day offering to furnish the funds to gather together the organization and build the necessary factory to make and market his product. On the contrary, his enterprise was so poor a risk that the few thousands necessary to get his first start came from wage earners and small business men, the class who no doubt, were considered "pikers," investing in a business which, had the so-called financial authorities paid any attention to it at all, they would have pronounced highly speculative.

Yet these and the hundreds of other successful enterprises that have built immense corporations and made millions and millions are the kind of investments that appeal most to the optimistic progressiveness of the American investor.

TASKS OF MIDDLE AGE.

Work to Keep Youthful and to Insure Future Happiness.

In Woman's Home Companion Margaret Deland gives useful advice on how to meet middle age in such a manner as to insure future happiness:

"To hold on to our appreciation of nature we must spur our dull and lagging memory of beauty; to keep our appreciation of human nature we must refuse to be laid on the shelf; we must keep up with the procession of human thought. Only so can we see the sweat, the tears, and smiles of our fellow creatures.

"These are the two tasks of middle age. If we perform them worthily our souls will never grow old. And plainly it is 'up to us,' as these slangy youngsters of ours express it—it is up to us to keep young; to make sure that our inner vision is open to beauty and to the joy and sorrow, the squalor and glory of our fellows. If we do this the 'compensation' is immediate.

"So what difference does it make if the body is rheumatic and nearsighted—and a little deaf when it comes to the song sparrow? What do such things matter if the eyes of the soul still see that crater mirroring the sky, if the ears of the spirit hear the bird's note in dawn and dew?

"Nor does it matter that the body declines a game of tennis and shudders at a plunge in the surf when the thermometer registers only 55 degrees if the body's tenant is able to say to the young people: 'Go ahead! Have a good time! But take my word for it—' 'The best is yet to be!'

Why Policeman Was Arrested.

An American friend of mine in Port au Prince had a very useful house servant by the name of Polisemai, who earned the notable sum of 5 gourdes (\$1 gold) a week and found. The federal authorities kept arresting Polisemai for military service and his employer got tired of going to headquarters about once a week to pry him loose from the army. He found that the continual arresting was due to the fact that several officers wanted Polisemai's job.—George Marvin in World's Work.

Dreaded Two Things.

Nicholas Romanoff, late czar of Russia, dreaded two things—assassination and revolution—and neither was a vain fear. Since 1891, when he was assaulted and wounded by a Japanese named Sango and escaped death only by the prompt action of Prince George of Greece, up to his abdication, there were thirteen attempts to assassinate him.

Swing Your Arms.

"Don't keep your hands in your pockets," says Dr. C. E. Page of Boston. "Keep swinging them as you walk. This is necessary to obtain needed and essential exercise when walking. Don't simply walk on your hind legs, but keep all four in some sort of motion, as nature intended you should do."

Trees.

Trees being associated with the best side of human life, none but the short-sighted and stupid will descend to estimate their worth upon a cordwood valuation.

Fight and Think.

Three things to fight for—honor, country, home. Three things to think about—death, eternity.

WEIGHT OF THE FEET.

Greater When You Are Asleep Than When You Are Awake.

Your feet weigh more when you are asleep than when you are awake. At least that is the conclusion of a scientist who has experimented with the question. These tests were conducted in a most interesting manner. The subject was laid on a long plank, which was then placed upon a crosstree, saw-saw fashion. The man upon the plank was balanced on this crosstree, and the plank remained at a level without any effort upon his part. But the moment that he went to sleep it began to incline downward at the end opposite his head.

This experiment was repeated with a number of persons belonging to both sexes, and in every case the result was the same. In no instance did the sleeper's head incline toward the ground.

This phenomenon is explained by the fact that the head is drained of surplus blood when a person is asleep, and the blood naturally flows toward the extremities of the sleeper. Immediately this makes the head lighter in weight, the difference being sufficient to upset the balance of a man resting in the position described.

A Theodore Thomas Retort.

A characteristic story is told of one of the first rehearsals of the college choir of the Cincinnati College of Music, at which Theodore Thomas had reprimanded some of the sopranos sharply for inattention. "He treats us as if we were members of his orchestra!" exclaimed an indignant singer to her next neighbor. Thomas overheard the remark and let it pass for the moment, but at the close of the rehearsal, as the performers were leaving the stage, he passed the lady in question, and, turning to her, said very quietly, but with that biting sarcasm which those who knew him did not care to excite, "Madam, you will have to sing a great deal better than you do now before I shall treat you as I treat the members of my orchestra!"—Memoirs of Theodore Thomas.

Origin of the T Rail.

Robert Livingston Stevens sailed from New York to Liverpool before the advent of the ocean steamer. In those days the passage took two months, and Stevens passed many an hour, jack-knife in one hand and a piece of wood in the other, brooding over a problem that had often worried him—how to run a railroad without stone stringers for tracks. He wanted to get an iron rail that would "hold" and would take the place of the thin strips fastened to the chair of the roadbed. Just before he reached England his whittling revealed to him the solution of his problem, and that solution took the form of a T rail with a broad base that could be applied direct to a solid wood support. That T rail is still in use on all the railways of the world.

Baths For the Canary.

Under normal conditions most birds probably bathe daily, and canaries in captivity should be allowed the same opportunity. When individual birds obstinately refuse to enter the water gentle spraying usually will induce them to bathe.

Small china dishes that are not too deep make good bathing pans. When a bird becomes accustomed to one dish it usually will refuse to bathe in another one of different shape and color. In winter the water should be warmed until tepid. Even in warm weather too cold water is not advisable. If the room, ordinarily warm, becomes cold temporarily, birds should not be allowed to bathe.

During molt the bath should be given not more than twice each week. When breeding the female canary should not be allowed to bathe from the time the eggs hatch until the young are three or four days old.—United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin.

A Leap Into Fame.

How many actors have begun their stage career as leading man? Probably Sir Johnstone Forbes-Robertson is the only instance. One night when Sir Johnstone was a young man of twenty-one his father, who was an art critic and journalist, went to see W. G. Wills' "Mary Stuart," and after the performance Wills accompanied him to supper. In the course of conversation the dramatist asked his host how he thought Castelar, the leading part, was played. "Why, my son there, who has never acted, would do it fifty times better." "The very thing!" cried Wills. "Will you try, Johnstone?" The young artist modestly assented, went with Wills next day to rehearsal and a week later made a sensational debut. Since then he has always been a leading man.—London Standard.

A Small Boy's Invention.

Sir Hiram Maxim began to invent almost as soon as he could lisp. When but a small boy he invented a sort of sextant made of wood, with sights, a piece of thread with a bullet at the end and an indicator for the thread to swing along.

On a dark night he took his instrument outside, and while he sighted it to the north star his little sister read the indicator. "Forty-five, Hiram!" she called out. This meant they were living in 45 degrees north latitude. The observation proved to be perfectly accurate.

A Turkish Riddle.

Here is an old Turkish riddle which has been handed down for many centuries and yet has never been answered. "There was once a beggar who always dreamed he was a pasha, and there was a pasha who always dreamed he was a beggar. Which was the happier?"

CADETS OF CHAPULTEPEC.

Heroism of Gallant Little Band of Mexican Schoolboys.

The defense of Chapultepec during the war between the United States and Mexico in 1847 was almost as gallant as was the attack. In this attack forty-eight Mexican cadets, among others, lost their lives. The story is a stirring one.

For many years the celebrated castle of Chapultepec, where Montezuma held his barbaric court in the surrounding groves of cypress, where during nearly three centuries lived the successive viceroys of Spain and where Maximilian made his imperial home, has been the West Point of Mexico.

When General Scott had taken the place by storm and General Bravo had surrendered, a Mexican cadet only fifteen years old, seeing the flag of his country in peril, most of his comrades being already slain, climbed the flag-staff, tore the banner from its place, wound it around his body and slid down, intending to plunge over the precipice in order to save the colors from falling into the hands of the enemy.

That act of heroism being frustrated, the brave boy, with the banner still wrapped about him, fought until he was cut to pieces. Forty-eight of these schoolboys, ranging in age from fourteen to twenty years, lie buried in one grave at the foot of the hill. Year after year the cadets of Chapultepec strew flowers upon the grave.

Wonderful Siberian Railway.

The great railway of 5,000 miles in length that runs across Siberia is one of the most marvelous in the world, first because of the difficulties that had to be faced in building it and, secondly, because of its enormous length. For nearly 1,000 miles along this steel track the line crosses an almost treeless plain. All the stations along those weary miles are at least thirty miles apart, and most of the villages are a long way from the stations.

In winter this Siberian line is one continuous view of snow, stretching for miles along the seemingly endless desert. Sometimes the villages and stations are almost buried in snow, and not infrequently the train gets snowed up. Water for the stoves and the engines has to be brought steaming hot, lest it should freeze on the way, and often men at the stations in the depth of winter have to chop off long icicles from the engine and cars. But even the intense cold has its advantages, for dairy products, such as cheese and butter, can be carried by rail without having to be put into refrigerating trucks.

Finger and Toe Nails.

Finger nails and toenails are only another phase of the development of man from the animal that originally walked on four feet. Animals that walk on all fours use the finger and toe coverings, which in man is the nail, to scratch in the ground, to attack enemies and to climb with, and our nails of the present day are what the development of man into a civilized being has changed them to. At that there are still uses for finger nails and toenails, or man in his changing to a higher plane would have found a way to develop away from them, says the "Book of Wonders." They are useful today in making our fingers and toes firm at the end and enable us to pick up things more easily. The time may come when man will have neither finger nails nor toenails.

Livingstone's House Preserved.

Measures have been taken by the British government to preserve the remains of Dr. David Livingstone's house at Kolobeng, or Kolobeng, Bechuanaland, and the graves in its vicinity. Here Dr. Livingstone lived as a missionary among the Bechuans before setting out upon his great journeys of exploration. With the aid of the native chief, Sechele, the ruins of the house have been fenced and protected by a shed, and the site is to be kept clear of jungle and placed under the care of the headman of a neighboring village.

Illiteracy in Spain.

In many villages and small towns in the interior of Spain no one knows how to read or write. There are in Spain 30,000 rural villages without schools of any kind and many thousands which can be reached only by a bridge path, there being no highroads or railway communication of any kind. Attendance at school is voluntary, not obligatory. Seventy-six per cent of the children in Spain are illiterate.

Tomatoes and Grapes.

An Italian grape grower accidentally discovered that the presence of tomato plants in his vineyard made short work of the phylloxera, with which his vines were infested. This insect destroys both the root and the stem of the grapevine.

Never Fails.

Bob (looking at the menu)—What is an omelet surprise? Rob—The surprise comes when you get your check.

Duty puts a clear sky over every man, into which the skylark of happiness always goes singing.—Prentice.

Ups and Downs.

"I threw up a good position to please that girl."

"Did she appreciate the sacrifice?"

"No, she didn't; she threw me down."

Finger Prints.

Finger prints for identification were used by the Chinese as long ago as the seventh century.

TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS.

Find Out Whether You Are a Promoter or a Caretaker.

In the American Magazine a writer says: "All the world of men is divided into two classes—caretakers and promoters. The most important decision a man can make in his business life is to determine in which one of these two classes he belongs.

"Really I have come to believe that at least half of the sorrow and failure and heartache in the business world comes simply because men won't recognize that law. Square pegs in round holes—what are they? Just promoters in caretakers' jobs, that's all, or vice versa. Brilliant subordinates who fail utterly in business on their own account? Simple enough. They are caretakers—splendid, efficient, successful caretakers—and they get the wrong idea that they are meant to be something else. A great big business suddenly begins to stagger and fall apart, and everybody wonders why. But apply the same law and it's easy—too many promoters or too many caretakers, not the proper working mixture of each.

"Alexander was a promoter of the first order. He conquered the world. But where were the caretakers to conserve and consolidate and solidify? They just weren't, that's all, and Alexander's empire fell to pieces almost before his ashes were cold. A few hundred years later Caesar conquered the world, and his empire stood for generations. Why? Because Augustus, one of the great caretakers of history, followed Caesar."

EYES IN PORTRAITS.

Why Some Always Seem to Gaze Right at You and Some Never Do.

You probably have noticed that some faces in pictures seem to follow you; also that in other pictures there are faces which are not looking at you, but no matter where you walk, even though it be in the direction in which they seem to be looking, you will never find the face looking at you. Indeed, faces in pictures are either looking at us from wherever we look at them or else they never look at us from wherever we look at them. The same is true of photographs.

The rule is very simple. If the person who was being painted or photographed was looking at the painter or the camera, then wherever you stand he will seem to be looking at you. If he was looking on one side, then wherever you stand he will seem to be looking on that side of you. This works very queerly if you have a group of people who were all looking at the camera when they were photographed. If you look at the photograph from one side they all seem to turn to follow you and then to turn back if you look at it from the other side. But if they were not looking at the camera you can never get them to look at you.

Blind Dogs and Rats.

Caulnes born blind or that become blind by accident are able to smell and paw their way into the most inaccessible and out of the way places. It is practically impossible to starve them, lose them or trap them. Furthermore, blind dogs learn as quickly as those that see. Loss of sight in no way interferes with their ability to learn tricks, acquire habits or find their bed.

Rats, as a matter of fact, if they use their eyes at all—a doubtful matter—can see little or nothing of the world. The retina of these creatures has no point of perfect vision such as is found in the higher animals and man; hence their noses, muscles, touch and hearing give them information about the world they live in.

Rice Culture.

The culture of rice is alluded to in the Talmud, and there is evidence that it was grown in the valley of the Euphrates and in Syria before 400 B. C. It was taken into Persia from India and later into Spain by the Arabs. Thence its culture was introduced into Italy about 1468 A. D. The Spaniards are also responsible for its introduction into Peru and other sections of Spanish America during the early colonial period, but the exact date has not been definitely determined. The first introduction of rice culture in the Americas seems really to have been in Brazil.

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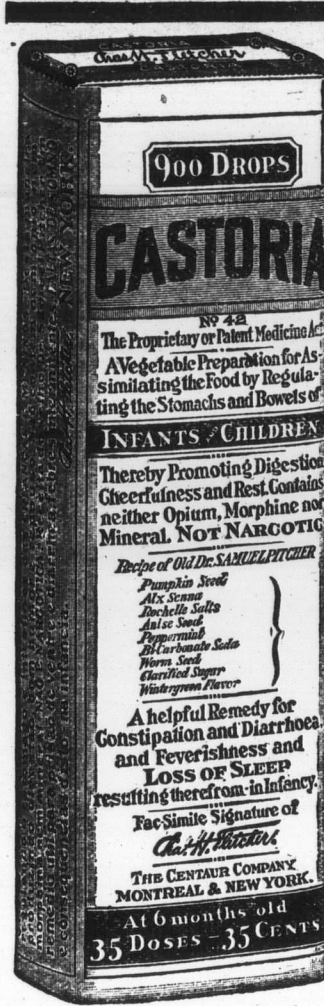
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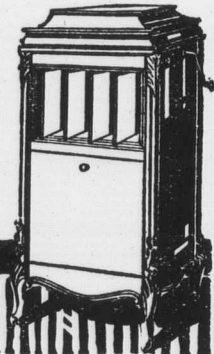
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