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Positiveness and Ignorance.

By RUTH CAMERON.



RUTH CAMERON.

There is no quality that more frequently goes hand in hand with ignorance than the habit of indiscriminate positiveness. The less people know the more things they are sure of. Think it over. Aren't those people among your acquaintances who go about making positive statements in regard to everything, usually the people whose education has been limited. Of course I do not mean that a deficiency in early education always makes a man positive. There are some people who can rise above such a limitation and make up in the school of life the terms they missed in the school of books. Likewise there are people who can never be educated out of a natural tendency to know more about everything than anyone else.

Don't Let People Think This Of You

But take it by and large when you hear a man making positive statements about a variety of subjects you can be pretty sure that he is ignorant as he is positive.

This is the sort of person I mean. The talk runs on boats. A man who knows something about boats tells of a boat he heard of which made a remarkable record. The positive man speaks up and says with finality "There ain't (he always says "ain't") a boat made can go that fast."

Not That He Knows Anything About That Machine.

The talk moves to machinery. Someone tells of a wonderful machine

which cost many thousands of dollars. Flatter the positive man announces "You mean the patent cost that. You could buy the machine for ten dollars." Not that he knows anything about this particular machine. That is what gives the positive man his vast scope. He doesn't have to know. And he doesn't. The positive man is not only positive about things which are matters of fact. He is equally dogmatic about things which are matters of opinion. For instance, you are talking about different kinds of flour. Someone expresses a preference for dark flour. "Dark flour is miserable tasting stuff," he says. "White flour is the only kind that's fit to eat."

And No One Believes Him When He Really Knows.

The worst of the positive man's positiveness is that it takes away all authority from the things he does know about. Quite frequently such a man really knows about some subjects. But who is going to believe him when he has often rendered himself ridiculous by making assertions about things of which he knows and about which his audience knows he knows nothing?

Take the man who is well educated enough to know how much he doesn't know and who therefore goes lightly on such subjects and expresses any opinion with an "I think" before it. When he speaks up and makes an outright statement with quiet authority, it carries weight. People listen to him with respect. And surely that is a reward worth curbing the tendency to positiveness for.

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Rann-dom Reels.

THE HOTEL TOWEL.

The hotel towel is an imitation of a drugstore awning which can be found in almost every hotel, after a careful search through the basement. It is used to remove travel stains from the neck of the patient, uncomplaining drummer, and is usually made of some leather-faced material which is guaranteed against flaws or defects in workmanship during the lifetime of the washes.

UGH! I GET EVERY TAXI DRIVER IN TOWN USING THIS TOWEL!



Pawed at gingerly by fastidious guests.

Some hotels in the smaller and less pretentious precincts do not know more than one towel, which in course of time assumes a care-worn and low-spirited countenance. There are very few of these hotels left, owing to the teaching of hygiene in the public schools, but whenever they are found they are always erected on a roller, which is pawed at gingerly by fastidious guests. Some states have stringent laws against the roller towel, but the law does not say anything about giving a man a room next to an all-night poker party or a bed alongside a steam radiator which can't be shut off by anybody except a licensed plumber. This teaches us that in some respects the law is a crude and ignominious failure.

All modern hotels which cater to

the luxurious in man place one long, limber towel in each guest room with the understanding that when this has been worn out another will be sent up if the telephone is working. It is a great disappointment to a neat and tasty guest to cover his face with hotel soap and then discover that there is nothing in the room that looks like a towel except the bedspread. Most traveling men carry an extra shirt in their grips in order to meet such emergencies as this.

In all hotels which charge \$5 a day and up, mainly up, there has been introduced the greatest labor-saving device of the age, the paper towel. The man who invented the paper towel should be pensioned by a grateful government instead of being forced to remain in hiding. This towel is made of a low grade of wood pulp and a circulation of air, and when thrust violently against a two-day beard is harder to pry loose than a mustard plaster. When a traveling man enters the dining-room accompanied by the clinging feet of a paper towel, the head waitress will refuse to recognize him until he has returned to the barber shop and been thoroughly shredded.

Hotel towels are more plentiful than they used to be, but we can't see that they die any younger.

AFTER THE STRIFE.



WALT MASON.

I go to buy a pair of pances, whereas the clothier cries, "The war has killed the sheep in France, which makes the price rise." I go to have my whiskers stained a rich and lustrous blue; the barber says, "I'm really pained to lift the price on you, but all the barks and buds and herbs of which my dyes were made, were harvested by Huns and Serbs, and war has spoiled the trade." I do not care about the price of anything I buy; I'll cough up for a chunk of ice, a bulldog or a pie; the men who balk at paying kale are people I abhor; but this old formula is stale: "Price up because of war." Oh, happy day when Wilhelm's goose is cooked, to walk no more, and we shall hear a new excuse in every retail store!

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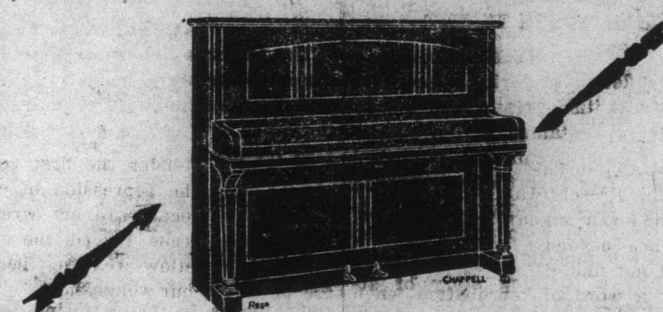
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100 Half Barrels Pears,
150 Barrels Gravenstein Apples,
100 Crates Silver Peel Onions,
80 Cases California Oranges.

All counts. Due to arrive ex steamer. Prices right

BURT & LAWRENCE,

Charity

From a P.

Under the date of J. Cardinal Mercier, A. Mechin, wrote to his dealing with the Pastor per to the Present. The following is taken:

Catholics beyond who did not find in to utter a word of rep the German armies were the innocent inhabitants Virtou, Audenney, Ram and Louvain, showing burning our own w less villages; who were loved to be propagated ries which sought to criminals by transform into aggressors; who years have been looking arms, unyielding ex lips at the torture of former friends, who but goodwill for German Catholics are now cents, chanting fraternity, forgetting peace.

Very confused with prevalent on the tions of charity and the enemy of our hel. The present occasion able one for recu of doctrine of the mence of Christian.

There are in the deeply rooted, pe towards enjoyment, wards anger. The is the possession of ment is the outcome sion. The object of avert some evil, that evil when they

These two prom to animals and on they take the form sion; in ourselves as desire and passio sonable inclination.

An inclination to tive or super-sens question with which ed; what we are the propensity of geance, animal m of the reasonable.

Saint Thomas appetite for vengeance vindictive. This rooted in the sensu ture, or in our How are we to ju point of view?

It may be good Thomas, it may virtue or a situ whether the ob will is just and have the will to respecting the on perform a virt thus the redress within the limit ary with evil; zeal, to act right

RE