

for a week to do so, for you know them as well as I do, and their name is legion. But there is real morality on earth, and I want my lady friend to qualify her definition a little.

True morality is the love of virtue and goodness for their own sakes and not for the sake of public approval. If a man wants to be good, he will be good, and he doesn't care what people may think. Hanging a banner on the outer wall with the device "I am moral" doesn't make you so by several lengths. You must have the morality in that little organ which pumps blood all through your system, or the everyday temptations of life will make you a peripatetic monument of mendacity. It is true that one may lead himself to believe that he is doing right by leaving his wife alone every evening when he is really doing wrong, but if he will go out behind his barn and think a little, and size himself up right, he will soon find that he is committing a gross error.

Again, reputation is all right, but reputation is only what the world thinks you are, and may easily be diametrically opposed to what you know yourself to be. Look within yourself, and there you will find your moral quotation distinctly marked down from time to time by the ticker of Conscience. A pear may be beautiful on the outside, and still rotten at the core. We know that, and all I would say is, "Be as good as you can, according to your nature, and let it go at that."

There is something strange about the manner in which the Alaska excursions are conducted this summer. In past years excursionists were given ample time to see the beauties of Victoria; but this year the boats, so far, have arrived at such a time that it was impossible for the passengers to see the city, let alone to drive around it. It is said that there is a combination among the Sound cities to give Victoria "the worst of it." Whether or not, the matter would be worth investigation. No doubt the excursionists buy their tickets in the belief that they will see every point of interest on the trip, and it must be disappointing to them to learn when they return that they have not seen Victoria, the most interesting place for the tourist in the world.

I am told that the popular belief

that a Chinaman forfeits his right to burial in China when he loses his pig-tail is an error. In China long hair is the custom; and only the priests, or Wah Yung, as they are called, wear their hair cropped short, after the fashion of Christian nations. "Only ting is," says a Chinaman, "when we go back China hair cut short like curiosity, and everybody say, Wah Yung." Except for the annoyance caused by the curiosity short hair excites among the natives when they return to China, there is nothing to prevent a Chinaman having his hair cut if he so elects.

It is said that many of the groundless rumors concerning the prevalence of smallpox in this city can be traced directly to several druggists, who have circulated the reports in order to induce trade. I cannot vouch for the truth of this allegation, but I do know that the drug trade has been a very profitable one for the past day or so. Druggists should not be permitted to resort to such tricks so that they may increase the sales of their very often worthless medicines. The city will suffer commercially by the spread of such stories, and even if we had numerous cases of smallpox in our midst, it is quite certain that sawdust and flour would not act as a preventive. I intend to look into this matter, and if sufficient proofs are forthcoming I can inform the dispensers of physic that they will hear from me with no uncertain sound.

In connection with this smallpox scare, it is said that the authorities have been very lax in their attempt to stamp out the disease. For instance, it is alleged that ordinary hacks were used for the removal of two patients to the quarantine hospital, and that these same conveyances were afterwards permitted to go on the stand and solicit traffic. If such has been the case, and there is every reason to believe it, those guilty of such a flagrant violation of the health by-law should be made to suffer. Another matter families would do well to look after is their laundrymen. It would be a very easy matter for the disease to be carried from a laundry, and families should exercise the greatest care in having their clothing thoroughly fumigated.

Stories of assistance refused by physicians because their fee could not be

guaranteed in advance are becoming too numerous of late. Before too severe judgment is passed upon the doctors, their side of the story should be heard. The profession of medicine is, of course, a business, and is adopted, in most instances, for the sake of the money to be made. The knowledge and practice of medicine should not, however, callous a man's heart and deprive him of all the instincts of mercy and humanity. A physician should be paid for his services, but a man, whether physician or no, who refuses to help a fellow-being in distress, because he is not sure that he will be paid for so doing, is a more despicable character than Shylock; more mercenary, and not a whit more merciful. In this city there is one physician who, it is said, during a practice extending over many years, has never yet refused to lend his assistance whether the patient was able to pay or not. This gentleman is not only rich in this world's goods, but also in the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

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