

The Ordeal of Laughter.

Since Thersites attacked the great son of Atreus, and would have prevailed through ridicule had not Ulysses beat him about the shoulders with his sceptre, every man who has aspired to a high place, every statesman who has argued for a great cause, every scientist, inventor and discoverer who has blazed out a new path for progress, has had to dread the shafts of ridicule more than the attacks of ignorance.

Trial by fire is a hard test, but trial by laughter is the supreme ordeal. Men will face death when they would run from ridicule. A serious attack on a new movement serves but to solidify it, where a sneer would often disperse its forces. And so laughter has become the logic of unreason; a sneer its final argument. For it is hard to think and easy to laugh, and most men fear not to laugh with the crowd lest it turn and laugh at them.

In religion, in literature, in politics, what man would destroy he first makes ridiculous.

This is as it should be. A great idea or a great man is never laughed down and out. In the end the sceptre of common-sense prevails. For, though the crowd loves its laugh, it usually distrusts the man who provokes it, and unconsciously begins to respect the one who perseveres in his purpose despite it. And if ridicule has its abuses, it has its uses. It punctures the sham for all time and strengthens the real to its final triumph.

—Charles F. Wingate.

A Scotchman was describing to a fellow countryman the wild extravagance attending his first visit to London. "I had na been there a week when *bang went saxpence!*"

On the love of each for his own rests the grand structure of life assurance.

Mr. Rockefeller's Five Maxims.

John D. Rockefeller, the "Oil King," whose wealth touches the \$125,000,000 mark, won his first start in a business way by working on a New York farm, twelve hours out of the twenty-four, for twenty-five cents a day. He has earned his position as a multi-millionaire by adhering to the principles of the following maxims:

1. It should be every man's duty to get all the money he can, keep all he can, and give away all he can.
2. Buy only what can be paid for, and look upon debt as an ogre that first paralyzes and then kills.
3. Live within your means, and don't think too much of your neighbor's good fortune.
4. Keep a record of all expenditures and receipts, so that at the end of each year you can tell whether you are saving enough money to provide against the inevitable rainy day. Any one can make money; few can save it.
5. Live as though every act of yours was under the scrutiny of your bitterest enemy.

—Saturday Evening Post.

No Equity.

The head of a family may pay rent for twenty years and at the end of that time have no equity in the property, although the amount paid, if applied differently, would have bought it and secured him a homestead. So with assessment or fraternal assurance concerns. The rapidly increasing monthly payments give absolutely nothing in the way of future protection; and the "assured" has no equity in an accumulated surplus, while the same investment in a regular company assures a definite return and absolute certainty of payment.

—St. Paul Globe.