

It is not quite certain whether the above points out a moral or not; but a little alloy in inculcating religious obligations in youth such as, going a fishing, making mud pies, climbing trees and a few free and rough and tumble fights may be of some service to the cause of religion.

While on the subject of hampers, a little incident in connection with the late North West Revolt, may adorn these pages. A young fellow in a commercial way was relating to a knot of interested listeners, how he and some friends of his at Montreal, sent up about fifty dollars worth of choice cigars, to several of their friends in the Montreal Artillery, but after the "war was over," the artillery friends said they never got any cigars; but they noticed that the staff officers seemed to be enjoying an unusual supply of fragrant "Havanas," "Terra del Fuegos," "Bronchos," "Paders," "Madres," etc. When the friends found that the officers collared the whole invoice, they got very mad, when everyone knows that the rank and file have not any privileges which the officers are bound to respect, it is quite clear that these civilians were grossly unreasonable and presumptuous.

Just let the reader, picture to himself a whole detachment of privates smoking fifteen cent cigars, while moving their guns in position to obliterate a clump of half breeds. Fancy the feelings of the officers in command, the officers were quite right in appropriating any stray luxuries that came along—while examining parcels that might contain traitorous newspapers and rebel dispatches. The dignity of the commissioned officers must be maintained. If any foolish people wish to send the word to any of their friends, acting as full private, let them send blackstrap and clay pipes which is quite good enough

for the pack mules that make up the rank and file.

CURRENT TOPICS IN A CLAM SHELL.

A Study in Evolution.

That portion of our Civil Service, the City Hall, affords to the student food for considerable thought, if not recreation; in its complex and somewhat antiquarian methods.

Probably the most important part of the civic machinery is its official heads and stratified clerkships—First, the growth and development of permanent clerks; these are divided into two classes—those who are closely connected by ties blood, with civic rulers, who have a strong pull and keep the wires well assorted—these comprise the under clerkships, and does not necessarily imply that any great amount of education should go with them. The only qualification necessary, is sufficient tact to express no opinions, but those that have prevailed from times immemorial. Then we come to the lesser or grosser element of civic employees—such as caretakers, messengers, etc., whose positions are obtained through the same process, only in a less degree. These pay great deference to the clerks and upwards in a ratio corresponding to the importance of the official—and in time these become permanently entrenched in the confidence of their official chiefs.

Thus, step by step, by not obtruding their personal convictions, these messengers, clerks, etc., become firmly rooted, and by becoming familiar with the different pulleys, ropes and fine wires of civic works, they command the situation and increased salaries. As time ripens, they rise to heads of departments—making sure to fill any

voids, with such assistants as will meet with their views, and have some affinity by blood or marriage—then when they retire, properly bonused, a beneficent council, for their efficient and long services, they feel as if they had fulfilled their duty, by providing for posterity of their own lineal descendants.

Such in brief is a synopsis of the permanent staff of that wonderful and noiseless civic machinery. There however, is another branch of this service, of a rather transient nature, consisting of temporary clerks or aids. These are but one class, helpers, when there is any rush of business and generally confined to copying. These helpers for the most part, are men who have had lots of business experience but out of their regular employment. They are composed of book-keepers, merchants, etc. Now these temporary helpers positions in the departments are indirect contrast to the permanent staff. Their work is for the most part piece-work for which the tariff is not excessive.

These again are appointed by means of the same set of pulleys and wires and may be advanced or repelled, by the departmental clerk, in charge of their work according to the bond of friendship. Those of them as are thus favored arrange to do a large proportion of work and of course far exceed others in the salary list consequently, when the list comes up in the civic estimates, the largest earnings are in obvious disproportion to the lowest. Then a wise executive cut down the tariff, regardless of the fact that while aiming to cut down those who make the most, they economize at the expense of the less favored, but more conscientious clerks.

The student of modern civic legislation and departmental customs, will also observe—the nice poise of departmental usage. The temporary clerks having no connection with the permanent clerk or chief clerk, is switched on

to an easy book—when working at books—and thus have a great advantage over one who gets a harder book to work at. He gets through his book quickly (the number of books is limited) and is favored with another one, thereby getting twice or thrice the amount of work and probably four times the pay.

The temporary clerks also indulge in day work, and they indulge in it as long as they possibly can without worrying it any.

No doubt, it is a considerable problem to the student what becomes of those temporary clerks (with the exception of a possible few that become permanent ones by having an unusually strong leverage). Well, during the process of evolution, they are sent out with express wagons, to assist the express men to deliver the voters' list, which lasts but a few days. After that they are appointed to the scavenging department, to gather up garbage in the back lanes of the city, and those who don't get dumped in the Cremator, probably find pastime in scraping the city streets, or get appointed as dog-catchers.

The student may now follow the course of evolution with a perfect certainty of finding the large number of book-keepers, druggists, Brokers and merchants who annually disappear in the ranks of the scavengers and street cleaners and where the temporary clerks leave off the permanent clerks begin.

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