

Something About a Reporter.

To many good people the very name of a reporter is a hissing and a by-word. It suggests to them a somewhat impertinent and entirely inquisitive person, with whom they desire but a slight, if any acquaintance in this world, unless they wish a service done, and one whose friendship there will be little chance of cultivating in the next. In other words they consider him an outsider and something of an outcast. Partially the judgement is correct; the reporter like all of the newspaper species, though living in this world is not of it. His life consists in watching other people live.

Some of the joys of others he shares, but not their holidays. A holiday to him is only the name for more work. As a compensation he is free from some troubles that beset many. A flurry on the stock market, a bank's suspension of payment, rarely worry him financially, for other people take care of his money and he gets rid of the trouble and the current coin at one and the same time which is immediately.

He has, though, troubles of his own, many and varied. Did he know all that he should, he might be placed on the library shelf, with the title *Universal Cyclopedia, A to Z*; and described as a cheap edition, cloth bound. By many, judged from the questions which he is asked, he is supposed to carry a special cable connected with his person and the scene of operations in Africa, with branch lines taking in the pugilistic encounters and the polling booths at the elections. These things do not make him vain, they either make him non-committal in speech, or a tale-teller of doubtful veracity and broad experience.

But these questions be they never so varied and complex, must be answered to the best of his ability, even if the answer be a declaration of ignorance, because it is his business to ask questions, and he must remember the golden rule to act it. It is, however, far better for one's character as an up-to-date newspaper reporter to hazard an answer to each and all of these questions. If the answer be wrong, it may be explained by mentioning the fact that a later telegraphic despatch denied the truth of the first, on which presumably, the answer was given.

These things, while not tending toward growth in grace, are very helpful in smoothing the pathway in this world. It might be mentioned as an off-set to such ideas, that in all this the reporter is working for the public weal. It is well to sacrifice oneself, if the masses are to be uplifted. Did he not show an intimate knowledge of all things, no one would give him news, and so the readers of the paper would be the sufferers. The ethical point might well be left for discussion in another place.

News is, of course, the great thing the reporter is after. Though it is such a common thing, many people don't know it when they see