

# An Hour with the Editor

## CHARACTER AND DEVELOPMENT

"My reputation is what men say of me; my character is what I am," were the words with which Theodore Tilton reached the climax of his one-time famous lecture on "The Problem of Life," which problem he considered to be the development of character. The eloquent lecturer was disposed to look upon reputation as a secondary matter, and perhaps it is so. It certainly is so, if in building up character we are rearing something that will survive reputation; but there is much wisdom in the old saying, "Give a dog a bad name, and you may as well hang him at once." Our reputations may not be identical with our characters, but one so reacts upon the other that we cannot hope to be successful in character-building, if we are indifferent to the matter of reputation. Therefore, while what we are may be infinitely more important than what men say we are, one of the most necessary factors in the development of character is the maintenance of a reputation in keeping with it. That "we may as well have the game as the name" is a principle which more of us act upon than would be willing to admit it. There is a tendency on the part of most of us to be what people think we are.

That no one is a hero to his valet is something we have all been taught to believe, and it suggests that in many cases our reputations are better than our characters, though most of us would like to think the superiority is the other way about. In a recent character sketch of Napoleon, based upon Fournier's life of that remarkable man—a new biography—we are given a new insight into his character. He no longer appears as a great hero, planning for the glory of France, but as a victim of a strange hallucination that he was called upon to rule the world, an irascible, hysterical, selfish man, who at times was really insane. His own brother Lucian said: "War is a permanent necessity to him." Berthier, who accompanied him to St. Helena, said of the fallen emperor, that his ruin was traceable to his character. The Napoleon, at whose frown all Europe trembled, was a fictitious person, a creature made up chiefly in the imagination of his friends and enemies, a reputation rather than a character. We see this thing in daily life. Reputation for success in business breeds success, and we often think of men as being themselves great in the world of finance and industry, when in point of fact they are only reputed great. It is the same in public life. We invest our party leaders with the attributes of greatness, and they rule us by the force of their reputations, not by the strength of their characters.

To say, as many persons do, that you do not care what people think so long as you know you are right, may indicate a fine spirit; it may also indicate stubbornness. It is right to cultivate strength of character; it is right to strive to develop character along the best lines; but it is also necessary to guard one's reputation jealously. Theodore Tilton, above referred to, regarded his reputation as of little value, but the world remembered his reputation and ignored his character, the consequence being that one of the brightest intellects of his generation was beclouded by suspicions that rendered his ability of little use to himself or anyone else.

Of course, we should all strive to develop our characters so that they shall approach perfection as nearly as possible. As the years pass and a larger measure of our happiness comes from retrospection and introspection, the value of a well-rounded character is the more apparent. When men cease to take much account of us, we can doubtless derive great satisfaction from a knowledge of what we are. Doubtless also, if we have a future individual existence, it is most wise so to live that the personality we take into another world shall be noble and pure. To a man in his coffin reputation counts for little; character may count for much. But in the activities of daily life reputation is of inestimable value and should be guarded carefully. Our motives may be known to ourselves; other people can only guess at them. Therefore we are judged by our fellows not by what we are, but by what we seem to be. To a certain degree our characters are reflected in our reputations, but by no means always. We can be by no means sure that the world will see us as we are. "Let your light so shine before men," said the Great Teacher, that it may be seen and appreciated. That is to say, do not be content to be right in your own consciences, but win for yourselves a reputation for this righteousness. Do not light the candle of a pure life, of honorable thoughts, or high ideals and hide it under the bushel of indifference to the opinion of your fellows. Cultivate character, but cherish reputation. Endeavor so to live that, when men speak of you, they will speak of you as you know you are.

## TALES FROM THE CLASSICS

### The Ramayana II.

Last week we read of how the disinherited Rama left the kingdom of Oudh and, with his beautiful wife Sita, and his brother Lakshman, took a vow that they would not return for fourteen years, and journeyed into the depths of the forest, where they made their home.

Now from that little hut where Sita reigned, and which she had made a bower of loveliness with trailing vines and flower garlands, and sweet with the fragrance of her own delightful presence, Rama and Laksh-

man went forth from day to day to do battle like all the brave knights of old time, in the cause of the weak and the distressed. And while they were gone, Sita, left to herself, learned to know and love all the wild things of the woods; listened to the call of the birds and the animals, until she could repeat them and bid them come to her. And the twittering birds would fly to her in a cloud when she stretched out her hands to them, and the fierce and gentle beasts alike, would become tame under her caresses. And so the months and the years went by, and the three exiles living close to the great heart of nature knew not the pangs of sorrow, but were always at peace with themselves.

By-and-bye, however, Rama and Lakshman had the misfortune to offend a mighty ogre, and her husband Ravana, the Ten-headed King of the Island of Ceylon, and Lakshman returned alone at the close of one sad day, not knowing the whereabouts of Rama. Ravana was such a wonderful ogre, with all the magic-arts at his command, that Lakshman was afraid to leave Sita the next day, for fear the great giant would find some means of harming her. Sita, however, begged him to go forth and find and rescue her husband, and Lakshman, pale with anxiety, and torn between love for Rama, and his solicitude for Sita, consented at last to do her bidding.

It was early in the morning when Lakshman departed after drawing about the hut with the end of his bow, the three magic circles inside of which only Sita might find safety; and all day the young queen did not venture from the hut, though she watched every moment from the doorway for some sign of Rama. At last it was near sunset time, the birds that had hovered about the hut all day had gone home, the animals had crept away to the thick jungle, and Sita, very lonely and sorrowful, lay down upon her bed and wept.

It was at this moment that she heard a beggar singing outside her door, asking for alms. Frightened, she rose to bid him go away, telling him she was alone and frightened, hoping to awake his sympathy. But the Brahmin was not inclined to leave her until she had given him what she desired. He told her a pitiful story of his suffering, and the gentle, kindly Sita, forgetting her own danger, stepped out beyond the third circle, some money in her hands. In a moment the begging Brahmin had thrown off his disguise, and appeared in all the awfulness of his ten-headed might. With a cry of joy he seized the terrified woman in his huge arms, carried her to his waiting chariot and bore her away to his kingdom. One by one, when the ogre's eyes were not upon her, Sita dropped her precious jewels from her brow, from her wrists and ankles and from her fingers, so that any coming after her might trace the way that she had gone.

For years Sita was kept a prisoner in Ceylon, but in all that time she remained faithful to Rama, in spite of the pleadings and threats of the terrible Ravana. And through all those long years Rama and Lakshman sought, for her, fighting first against one foe and then another, aided by those whom they had aided before. At last there came to their assistance Hanuman, the monkey-general, with his army of trained monkeys, and it was through his services that Rama was able to rescue his wife.

And now the fourteen years of exile were over, and Sita and Rama and the gentle Lakshman returned to Oudh, where they were welcomed with endless rejoicing, and where Rama was crowned with all pomp and grandeur. For one year the king and the queen were completely happy in their love for one another and their service to their people. But by-and-bye a doubt began to be voiced in regard to Sita's faithfulness.

It was not Rama who suspected her, but the people of Oudh, stirred up against her by the lying tongue of some enemy, whispered that she had lived with Ravana as his wife during those years of her imprisonment. And presently they demanded with one voice that their queen should hold her place no longer by Rama's side, but should be banished.

So Sita, in deference to the wish of the people, left, Oudh, and went to live the life of a nun, under the guardianship of an old hermit Valmiki. Furthermore, she took upon herself the vow of perpetual silence; she would neither listen to, nor answer, the calumnies that had been cast upon her. When she had been only a few months gone away her twin sons were born, and Valmiki brought them up as the princes they were, instructing them in the arts, and teaching them the use of the bow and spear.

And Rama sat alone upon the throne, but all the happiness had gone from his life. Only once was he known to speak of his loss, and that was when his subjects desired him to take a new queen. Then indeed his righteous anger blazed forth, and they never mentioned his marrying again.

When twenty years had passed by, a great religious festival was held at the court, and the hermit determined upon taking the two princes, thinking that the time had come when they should know their father and he them.

Now Valmiki had taught the boys the Ramayana, and he brought them forward and, at the king's request, they sang for him. His surprise was very great when he heard them telling of his own deeds of prowess and singing songs of praise for their father, the king. When from Valmiki he learned who the princes were, all of his love for Sita swept over him in an irresistible flood. He could live no longer without a sight of her face, he told Valmiki, and the old hermit going into the crowd

draw Sita to the throne. Bravely the wronged queen raised her head and lifted the veil from her face, and looked into her husband's eyes. All the pent-up love and tenderness of those twenty years of pain was concentrated in the look that passed between them. And then again, as before, the people raised the cruel cry of her faithlessness.

Held by her vow of silence, the queen would not answer, only straight and tall and very lovely she faced her husband, her soul in her eyes.

"Let her be tried by fire," the people cried; "let her be tried by fire to prove her stainlessness."

And Sita, wronged beyond endurance, cried out one word to heaven, demanding death.

So the ground opened, and a great golden chariot appeared, and within it invisible hands placed Sita, and she was carried away from the world of men. Rama, broken-hearted, stayed in Oudh only long enough to bestow his kingdom upon his two sons, and then he went away into the heart of that forest which had once sheltered him and his queen, and he was never seen again. Some poets add that here the two were united, and so we will let it go at that. It is the happier thought.

## THE ROMAN EMPERORS

When the Senate decreed that Hostilianus should be emperor, it also invested Gallus with equal power, although a somewhat subordinate rank. The first step taken by the new emperor was to secure the withdrawal of the barbarians from the Illyrian provinces. This was accomplished by the sacrifice of much treasure and of what was of much more importance, much of the prestige of Rome. Not only were the victorious Goths permitted to keep all their prisoners, including some of the noblest men of Rome, and all their enormous booty, but it was agreed that they should be paid a large sum annually in consideration of their forbearing from invading Roman territory. To this low stage had a great nation fallen. Only a few years before a barbarian prince felt flattered if a Roman emperor sent him a present of an ivory chair or a suit of armor, or some small thing, valuable because of the source from which it came, but now for the first time the gold of Rome was paid out annually as tribute. Rome was purchasing safety with money, an unheard of thing. We cannot attempt in this series of papers to tell the story in detail of how the wild northern tribes were stimulated by the success of the Goths to invasions, or how the fame of Roman arms became diminished. It may only be mentioned briefly that from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf, across what we now call the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Danubian principalities, Russia, and Syria, the tribes which the fame of Rome, quite as much as the prowess of her arms had held in restraint, defied with impunity the mistress of the world. The end of the Empire was not yet to come, but not even in the day of her final catastrophe, was her humiliation greater than during the decade following the death of Decius in 252.

Hostilianus did not long survive his elevation to the throne, and although he undoubtedly died from a pestilence that was raging in Rome, his death was attributed to Gallus, who was suspected of a desire to concentrate in his own hands the whole power of the state. Gallus was far from proving himself an incapable administrator, but such was the temper of the people that his every act was suspected, and discontent became almost universal. A new horde of invaders having swept across the Danubian frontier and spread terror even to Rome itself, Gallus advanced to repel them. Meanwhile Æmilianus, who was governor of the invaded province, had raised a force and driven back the invaders. His soldiers at once proclaimed him emperor, and he set out for Rome. Gallus met him on the way, but as soon as the two armies came in sight, a large body of his troops went over to Æmilianus, and the murder of Gallus and his son followed promptly upon the desertion. The new emperor made many promises of reform, and seems to have won the confidence of the Senate; but within four months he met the fate of his predecessor. Gallus had sent Valerian, a brave soldier, who was about seventy years of age, to restore quiet on the frontiers of Gaul, where the Franks were creating disorder. He was successful in his mission, and having repelled the invaders, he set out for Rome, resolved to avenge the murder of Gallus. When the troops of Æmilianus heard of his coming, they resolved to anticipate his revenge, and assassinated the emperor, so that when Valerian reached Italy it was to find himself already recognized as head of the State.

Historians accord to Valerian all the virtues that appertain to princely rank, and if he had been a younger man, he might have accomplished much for his country; but after three score years and ten the fires of energy are liable to become feeble, and while Valerian maintained his courage and fidelity to the State, he was unequal to the heavy task that was thrown upon him. Like his great predecessor, Marcus Aurelius, he made one fatal error. He invested his son with joint powers with himself. This young man, whose name was Gallienus, was a prince of despicable character, not a cruel monster as the son of Marcus was, but effeminate and ungrateful with a love for pleasure and little sagacity. Valerian and Gallienus, resigned jointly seven years, and Gallienus alone eight years. These were fifty years of stress and turmoil. On every side the empire was attacked by wild invaders,

and the task of government was one to which even the most energetic of men might have proved unequal. In Spain the Franks spread terror and gained victory after victory, penetrating even into Mauretania. The Allemanni, as they were called, from the fact that they were a mixture of various races, swarmed across the borders along the whole northern European frontier of the Empire. The Goths emerged from the Black Sea and overran Greece; the only reason why their conquest was not permanent being that the invading party was numerically small. On the Persian frontier, the invasion was more serious and the results more humiliating to the pride of Rome.

The successes of Artaxerxes and his son Sapor on the Persian frontier of the Empire gave Valerian just cause for alarm. On some future occasion something may be said of this king, who restored so remarkably the glories of Persia; for the present it is sufficient to say that his prestige was such that Valerian felt it necessary, despite his advanced age, to lead the expedition against him. Disaster awaited him. Through the incapacity or treachery of his lieutenant Macrinus his army was led into a position from which there was no escape, and Valerian was reduced to the necessity of offering the Persian monarch an immense sum of money to be allowed to retire. But Sapor refused. He was resolved to be satisfied with nothing short of the complete humiliation of his foe. He compelled the emperor to surrender to him, and forced the Roman troops to lay down their arms. He then appointed Cyraides, an obscure native of Antioch, to the vacant throne, who repaid him by assisting him to capture Antioch, which city was almost utterly destroyed. It is said that all the inhabitants were either put to the sword or carried away into slavery. Many other cities of Asia Minor shared the same fate and Sapor became the greatest power in all the East. In the meantime Valerian was compelled to attend upon Sapor dressed in the imperial purple with a rope about his neck, the crowning indignity to which the old man was subjected being that he was compelled, when Sapor mounted his horse, to kneel as a block from which Sapor could easily reach the saddle. It was the boast of the Persian that he never mounted without placing his foot upon the neck of a Roman emperor. When at length Valerian, broken by sorrow, passed away, Sapor, with fiendish ingenuity, caused him to be skinned, and his skin, stuffed with straw, was placed in one of the chief temples of Persia, where it was preserved for a long time as a witness of the nation's fame and Rome's disgrace.

## THE COMPANY LAWS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

There has been issued by the Board of Trade as a parliamentary paper (Cd. 5864) a comparative analysis of the company laws of the United Kingdom, India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, with a memorandum prepared for the recent Imperial Conference. The memorandum has been compiled as a result of the resolution adopted at the Conference of 1907, which expressed a desire to secure greater uniformity of the company laws of the Empire.

After referring to the consolidation of the company acts of the United Kingdom into a single statute in 1908, the memorandum states with regard to Canada that the Dominion acts relating to companies are not founded on the Imperial law, and the legislation of the provinces relating to companies is in some cases based on the Dominion acts and in other cases on the Imperial acts, and in most cases is a combination of the Dominion and Imperial law. In Canada there were in 1907 nine different systems of company law contained in 76 acts and ordinances. There are now 11 different systems of company law contained in 67 acts and ordinances. The increase in the number of systems of law in Canada is due to the legislation of the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the former province having contributed three new statutes and the latter five dealing with the law of companies. In British Columbia the 13 statutes which were in existence in 1907 have been repealed and have been replaced by a single consolidating statute based entirely on and closely following the words of the Imperial Consolidation Act. In the province of Ontario also there has been a reduction from 16 to five owing to a consolidation which took place in 1907.

In Australia the only change of any importance is the consolidation of the laws relating to companies in the State of Victoria. The total number of statutes in Australia dealing with the law of companies was 45 in 1907 and by the end of 1910 had risen to 54. In 1910 a select committee of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria reported that they were unanimous in opinion that the effect of a bill which was then before them would be to secure greater uniformity with the English company law and the bill has since become law. This act, the memorandum says, is an event of considerable importance, for though in form it is a consolidation act, it practically adopts the whole of the English law on the subject of companies.

In New Zealand there has been practically no change, but in South Africa the statutes dealing with company law now amount to only 16 as compared with 22 in 1907. This reduction is entirely due to the Transvaal, which has led the way by remodeling her laws relating to companies by the adoption of the Imperial Consolidation Act practically without change.

In summing up the present position the memorandum states that some progress has been made towards uniformity during the past

four years, and there is every reason to hope that progress will be more rapid in the near future. The importance of the subject is realized on every hand, and resolutions are to be proposed with regard to it at the coming Conference by the representatives of both Australia and New Zealand.

## GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN WEST

One of the most interesting results of the United States census has been to demonstrate the increasing rapidity with which the centre of population is moving westward. In 1900 this centre lay six miles southeast of Columbus, Indiana. It is now near Unionville, in Munroe county, Indiana, having, it is calculated, moved westward thirty-one miles and northward seven-tenths of a mile. The significant thing is that the westward movement has been almost twice what it was between 1890 and 1900. The centre of population is today only about 550 miles east of the geographical centre of the country, which is in Northern Kansas. The great growth of Pacific Coast towns, such as Los Angeles and Seattle, and of the populations of the newer agricultural communities of the West have far more than counter-balanced the emigration from the Western States to Canada during the last few years, as well as an actual loss of population in Iowa and a certain stagnation in others of the older states of the Middle West. That the centre of population has not shifted still further towards the Pacific is due, of course, to the growth of cities like New York, Boston, Atlanta, and Birmingham, which has to some extent counteracted the inability of the agrarian population of New England, and of many other districts in the East, to hold its own with the general average of increase. But, if easily explained, the change is not for that reason less important. In the United States, as in Canada, the growth of the West will have its influence upon the politics and social conditions of the nation. Though the newer West of the United States is less purely agrarian than that of the Dominion, the result of the shifting of population promises, for a time at any rate, to be much the same in the two countries. Free-trade Liberalism in Canada has for its counterpart in the United States that Western Progressivism of which so much has been heard in recent years.

Always intolerant of the Eastern manufacturing interests and of their influence at Washington—symbolized in high protection—the West has, until the present administration came into office, been more remarkable for the sporadic violence of its reform movements than for their influence on national affairs. Now, however, the growth in importance and population of communities across the Mississippi has been helped by the fact that the conservatives in congress have lost the power of control which for many years they exercised over legislative business. Their fate was inevitable; but the subsequent readjustment has been, and cannot but continue to be, much influenced by the drift of population westward. Even in the senate, where the state and not the people is represented, the change is already noticeable. Oklahoma has become a state since 1900, and its representation in the senate is tinged with the radicalism of its population. From Arizona and New Mexico, when they are admitted to statehood, the radicals in the senate may be expected to obtain new recruits, while the representatives from the older West have, through the growth of their constituencies, gained confidence in their fight for recognition in the counsels of that body. In the House of Representatives the same considerations hold good, and the transition is there hastened by the fact that representation in the House depends absolutely upon population. As the West fills up, it will probably become more conservative; but it will be very many years before its conservatism can be expected to equal that with which the East, or rather the Eastern politician of the old school, has become identified. Despite the setback which its Republican leaders in congress have recently suffered, it is inevitable that the radicalism of the American West—unlike the earlier Populist, Greenbacker or Granger movements—will continue to influence profoundly the government in Washington.—London Times.

A Missouri fruit farmer, whose orchard of 260 acres contained about 10,000 apple trees, sold his crop this season for \$100,000. A storage company bought the fruit on the trees.

The value of Amsterdam's diamond exports to the United States in good years amounts to \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000. About the same annual export goes to the United States from Antwerp, \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000 from England, and about \$4,000,000 from France.

Peru is the country which now leads all nations in the production of cotton per unit of area and offers the best conditions for the industry. The fibre resembles wool and the entire crop is used in the manufacture of woollen goods. It is claimed that such goods are improved by the admixture.

New York's wage earners number 1,400,000, of which the workers in factories lead all the rest with a total of 600,000. The store clerks are next in line with 290,000. There are 320,000 laborers and mechanics, 58,000 men in the liquor business, 45,000 office workers, 40,000 in the printing trades, 24,000 educators, 8,000 church workers, 6,000 lawyers and 5,000 physicians.

The number of emigrants from Hamburg and Bremen during the first seven months of the year amounted to 123,600 persons, as compared with 192,100 last year.