

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIELD.

A DEFENCE OF NEWSPAPER LIFE AND ITS CHANCES.

From Newspaperdom.

A MAN who has been a reporter, correspondent and managing editor for thirty years contributed to a recent Forum an article concerning the life of a newspaper man. The pessimism of the article is calculated to discourage writers now in the harness, as well as would-be newspaper men. Such articles are harmful. They tend to lead men downward, instead of upward.

This Forum contribution is a grand sneer at journalism. It is the sneer, evidently, of a disappointed writer. He says: "Work, untiring and ceaseless, is the badge of all professions; but the work of the newspaper man at forty five is not necessarily better paid work than that of the same man at twenty-five."

ABILITY MUST KEEP PACE WITH AGE.

There is nothing new or startling about that. It applies to medicine, law, and theology, just as much as to journalism. If a man earns fifty dollars weekly at the age of twenty-five, the world will not pay him any more at the age of forty-five, or at the age of one hundred and twenty-five, unless he has progressed, broadened, and made himself of sufficient value to the world, as a doctor, a lawyer, a preacher, or a newspaper man, to warrant increased compensation. In fact, I have seen journalists at fifty years of age who earned less than when they were twenty years younger. Why? For various reasons; but principally because they had failed to be constantly learning and increasing their knowledge and strengthening their mental bulwarks, thereby making their work of increased value as their experience increased. They failed to keep out of ruts. On almost every newspaper staff are men who have fallen into ruts, and not unlike the Chinese, they continue to do about the same kind of work in about the same way year after year, until by and by they find themselves out of the race. They have sat on the fence, as it were, and "watched the procession go by." Success in any walk of life is not attained by getting into a rut.

REPUTATION NEED NOT BE EPHEMERAL.

This Forum commentator complains again about the ills of journalism, saying of a writer: "But as the years roll by, he begins to discern the difference between an established reputation and one that has to be made afresh every day."

Nonsense! Every reputable journalist soon makes a reputation for himself—particularly among journalists—and it is as permanent as the reputation made in any other profession, whether it be a good or a bad name.

The commentator says: "Whether or no he be a writer 'on space,' he must turn out a certain amount of copy, or its equivalent, for at least fifty weeks in the year, and the fame of what he did last week is as dead as the fame of what he did ten years ago. For failing mental vigor there is no place in a newspaper office: for long service, no retiring pension."

A newspaper writer who does not turn out copy almost daily would better seek other occupation. That is what he is paid to do. As to the fame earned by the copy turned out, it depends altogether on the quality of the brain of the writer. If The Forum commentator can turn out copy equal, say, to that once written by Mr. William Shakespeare, doubtless he will receive therefor a fame that will last for not only a week or ten years, but for ten thousand years. There is no place in any profession

or business for failing mental vigor, and few professions or occupations command a pension for long service. Pensions have been given as freely to faithful journalists as to men in other walks of civil life.

A SURE REWARD FOR CERTAIN MERIT.

There is no reason why a journalist should receive greater consideration from the world than do other workers. The calling is one highly honorable and independent. There are "shysters" in journalism, as there are in other professions or callings, but the mass of journalists of the world need no defence from the criticisms of The Forum man. Every editor and reporter makes errors; but the whole trend of journalism has been, and is, to enlighten the people. Grievous mistakes are sometimes made by the press, especially in the printing of low-grade matter. These mistakes are not general, and they are recognized as mistakes by decent journalists. Almost invariably—and I speak from experience among leading journalists—the desire of all these men is to help uplift and make better, if possible, the people for whom they work.

In journalism, as in the pursuit of any other occupation, workers will get all the reward they deserve. Labor, like water, finds its own level.

WHAT FOOLISH MEN SHOULD DO.

The man who does not advertise simply because his grandfather did not ought to wear knee-breeches and a queue.

The man who does not advertise because it costs money should quit paying rent for the same reason.

The man who does not advertise because he tried it once and failed should throw away his cigar because the light went out.

The man who does not advertise because he doesn't know how himself ought to stop eating because he can't cook.

The man who does not advertise because somebody said it did not pay ought to believe that the world is round because the ancients said it was flat.

THE KINGSTON NEWS.

A copy of the Jubilee issue of The Kingston News has not yet reached us, as it was published as this journal goes to press. The number is highly spoken of, however, by those who have seen it, and is a good example of live publishing.

J. P. Hauch, of the Berlin Evanglimnsbote, has become a member of the Canadian Press Association.

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