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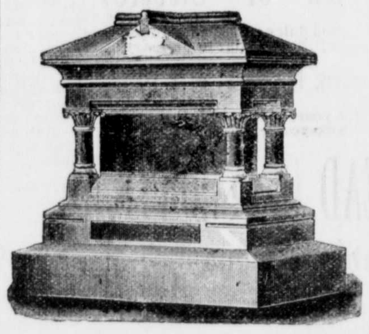

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A BOOM IN WHEAT-GROWING,

Kansas never does things by halves. It engaged when an infant in civil strife, and grew so enthusiastic over the strenuous life that the name of "Bleeding Kansas" was thought appropriate. When it took up the cause of Populism it became wholly Populistic, in contrast to its almost unanimous Republicanism of prior and subsequent times. Kansas raises corn by the millions of bushels when it raises corn at all. At times it feeds cattle in such numbers as to make other cattle-feeding States feel little. Recently Kansas has caught the wheat craze, and, as usual, it is breaking the record. In 1900 Kansas raised more than 90,000,000 bushels of winter wheat and about a quarter of a million bushels of spring wheat. According to estimates, this year's wheat crop in Kansas exceeds the yield of last year by thirteen and one-half millions of bushels. The value of this great crop is upward of $50,000,000.

Kansas papers proudly point out that this year's record-breaking crop of winter wheat in the Kaw State is greater than the wheat crop of any other State in the country. To prove that this is not a mere accident, figures are marshaled to show that for the past 10 years the wheat crop of Kansas averaged 46,272,000 bushels. This record is the more wonderful, according to Kansas papers, in that it has been grown in an area embracing about one-third of the State, the central one-third counting from east to west. Four counties—Sumner, Barton, Rice, and McPherson—this year produced more wheat than either Missouri or Illinois, and two of these counties, Sumner and Barton, produced more wheat last year than all New England and the States of New Jersey, Delaware, Alabama, Arkansas, Montana and South Carolina combined. This is something to gloat over, but the Kansans are not satisfied with it. They go on to show that 6,000,000 acres are now planted in winter wheat in the State, and the crop is especially promising. It is an increase in acreage of 12 per cent., as compared with last year, and the record is likely to be pushed up another notch.

The corn crop in Kansas was not good this year, but Kansas does not worry. It has raised nearly wheat enough to make up the difference and its statisticians have figured out that the net decline in the value of both crops will not amount to more than 11 per cent. when compared with fat years. While Kansas can raise 90,000,000 bushels of wheat in a year, there is no danger of starvation on the banks of the Kaw. The world will some day reach the conclusion that the greatness of Kansas is not duly appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE PATRONAGE.

The State Treasureship the Biggest Plum—Membership in the House Increased for the First Time Since 1880.

The most desirable office within the gift of the legislature, next to the United States senatorship, is the State treasureship, which is now held by Mr. Murray Vandiver, and to which it is thought he will be re-elected as a reward for his management of the Democratic campaign in the State outside of Baltimore city.

Here is the payroll of the two houses:

State Senate—President, $8; secretary, $10; reading clerk, $10; journal clerk, $10; sergeant at-arms, $5; three doorkeepers, $5; two pages, $5; messenger to president, $5; chief engrossing clerk, $7; nine assistant engrossing clerks, each per day, $5: keeper of cloakrooms, $5; postmaster, $5; assistant postmaster, $5; 25 senators, each per day, $5.

House of Delegates—Speaker $8; chief clerk, $10; chief engrossing clerk, $6; reading clerk, $10; journal clerk, $10 clerk to the speaker, $5; two attendants for cloakrooms, each per day, $5; sergeant at-arms, $5; three doorkeepers, each per day, $5; four pages, each per day, $5, two police for rotunda, each per day, $5; eight folders, each per day, $5; ten assistant engrossing clerks, each per day $5; clerks to the Ways and Means Committee, $6; flag raisers, $5; two assistant engineers, each per day, $2.50; postmaster, $5; assistant postmaster $5; ninety members, each per day, $5.

For the first time since 1880 there will be an increase in the membership of the House of Delegates, because of an increase of population. The counties which will be represented by an additional delegate are Dorchester, Prince Georges, Montgomery and Washington. The total membership will be 95. Since 1880 it has been 91. The constitutional amendments having been adopted, there will be a still further increase in the House membership two years hence of six and of one in the Senate.

These will come from Baltimore city which will then have 25 members of the House and four senators.

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The Reward of Giving.

No good deed is ever forgotten. An incident is related of a little girl whose mother was a sick widow, and who stopped a young man on the street and begged him to buy her chestnuts. He was poor, but he could not withstand her pitiful look. He handed her a coin and said "I cannot use your chestnuts, but you are welcome to this." She thanked him and then hurried away. Twenty years past. The little girl grew to womanhood and became the wife of a banker. Passing the library one evening she saw a man with her husband whom she recognized as the man who years before had been kind to her. When he had gone, she inquired his errand.

"He came to see if I would give him a vacant position in the bank."

"Will you?"

"I don't know."

"I wish you would," she said, and then told him the story of her poverty and the man's generosity. The man sat that night beside his sick wife's bed, when a liveried sevant brought him a note. "We shall not starve," he exclaimed, "I have the position." He opened the note and found inclosed a $250 check, with the words, "In grateful remembrance of the little silver piece a kind stranger gave the little chestnut-girl 20 years ago."—*The Christian Herald.*

TO EVERY one of us there must come a time when the whole tenor of our lives is changed. We stand upon some eminence and look back and see the familiar faces and the familiar places, remembering all the careless joy that belonged to those days that are past; and then we say, All this is ended for us. Whatever the future brings, it cannot recall what is past. Our friends of long ago have passed away; the old thoughts that filled our minds can never satisfy us again. Then we look forward, and see stretching before us a new kind of life, dreary, it may be, lonely and unfamiliar. Along this road we must henceforth walk; and the very dignity of the soul demands that every such crisis should be met; that we should try to take the measure of it, and ask ourselves what we must be, what we must do under these new circumstances. But it does not follow that we should carry always with us this consciousness until it burdens us and until we lose the joy of life, because we have to learn another lesson. We go into unknown land, but in this land we must make home; here must be new fellowships new experiences; there must be much talk by the way with those whom we meet, kindly greetings exchanged. These days are not to be overshadowed by only one great thought: they are days to be filled little by little. In the new interest we must live. And so after we have taken the measure of these days that are to come, that word comes to us—"Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." It may be a great burden which we have to bear, but we do not have it to bear all at once.—*S. M. Crothers, D. D.*

"Look on the Bright Side."

BY REV. JOHN F. COWAN, D. D.

An easy life makes a flabby man. The things that I like least may be among my best friends, whether I have learned to penetrate their masks or not. Necessity way be the mother of invention, but she is as harsh as the proverbial stepmother. Many of the grandest songs, poems, books and pictures have a dark background of hardship and heartache. Very few men are capable of tossing off such things with a smile, just for the luxury of doing great things for mankind.

It would be a great mistake to judge of the life of the oak by the shriek of the saw rippling through its heart. But go into the home and see the cheerful light of the fireside reflected from the shining oaken panels, and there you have the oak in its ripened glory, with all the shadows of the dark sawmill days and the lumber pile obliterated.

Most of us are pretty crude material yet. We are passing through the mill. Disappointments, care, sorrow, sickness, poverty, failure, drive their sharp teeth through us; but wait—this is only the mill. There is chafing, but that is the sandpaper. There is cutting, but that is the chisel. The glory that is to come when we shine as pillars in the palace of the King will make atonement.

Observations.

For the prodigal mother not a fatted calf, but a great goose should be killed.

Reiteration is one of woman's most maddening vices; yet when man shouts "Damn!" in final fury the verbal wasp dissolves in tears.

After ten years of matrimony a supersensitive woman has become stone or putty.

Vapid women tell each other they have "so much to say" when they meet. The opportunity comes, they talk an hour and say—nothing.

Man's pity may be akin to love; woman's is all-too-frequently nearer to contempt.

When an impecunious Frenchman humbly murmurs "Your servant, madame!" you may depend on it he is wondering how you may serve him.

The philosophical woman scoffs at tears and despises raging, but when was an angry woman ever philosophical?

"The sins of the fathers" knell the Scriptures. Not so! The sins of the mothers, yell the Grundyites.

A Promise for Next Year.

1902 has many good things in store for all of us; the country has seldom before been as prosperous as it is to-day. But, aside from this, education was never so general, and the number of well-informed, intelligent Americans is very large indeed in proportion to our country's population. This is easily explained in the fact that we are a nation of readers, and we are extremely critical and discriminating in the matter of literature. One of the best evidences that this is the truth is demonstrated by the enormous popularity of **The Metropolitan Magazine.** That a monthly periodical of such a high character as **The Metropolitan** should be eagerly read every month by more than half a million Americans proves not only the worth of the magazine, but a keen appreciation of good fiction, timely articles, and extremely artistic illustrations.

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