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LIBERTY ENLIGHTENS THE WORLD

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"THE SILENCE" and WHAT IT MEANS

Ostracism as Practiced Today Often Means Death, and Always Complete Self-Effacement

ISMAY is superseded; Foraker and Bailey have gone into the discard; Cavalieri lost large opera salaries for years; others, even less fortunate, have passed entirely away from the haunts of men; all because the public turned its back on them.

In West Point, the most dreaded punishment is "the silence." Even the instructors are not immune from it. No outward breach of discipline is involved. As with one accord, the cadets mete out their contempt, the more effective, because of its quietness.

Thus it has been, ever since ancient Athens was rent and torn by a political squabble that was about the equivalent of our modern mayoralty contests. One aspiring leader used ostracism in an attempt to get rid of a rival, and it has since been in vogue the world over.

ANY old scheme is good enough to get an opposing political faction out of power—at least it would seem so, in practice.

Certainly it was so in the time of Cleisthenes, about 2500 years ago. This particular Athenian had undergone a long period of exile, with his family, upon whom had fallen the blame of the Cylonian massacre.

If not exactly the originator of the most dreaded of punishments, Cleisthenes was the man who put it to use and applied it to his own personal ends. Ever since, some form or another of the Greek ostracism has been meted out to those whom the laws can't reach—sometimes justly, and always mercilessly.

By nature man is a sociable animal, and to be dropped, avoided, let severely alone, is occasionally equivalent to a lingering death.

There was the "embalmed beef" scandal. No one doubts that it killed General Alger, who had been McKinley's secretary of war during the Spanish-American conflict. There was a screw loose somewhere, and as the head of the whole business, General Alger came in for the odium that resulted naturally from the grafting methods which had been in vogue for a generation or more.

On the other hand, there are statesmen, or near-statesmen, who are driven into retirement by the lash of public opinion. They may have done nothing that the law can hold them for. But, morally, they have been "caught with the goods." It is not always necessary to prove a crime against a man. With its rough and ready ways, the populace is very apt to judge him by the company he keeps.

A SUDDEN SLUMP

Let any one who cares to know how keen can be the lash of public opinion apply for information to former Senator Joseph Benson Foraker, of Ohio. Ten or fifteen years ago he was regarded in his own state as the most brilliant politician Ohio had produced in a generation. He had been governor, and he went to Washington as the recognized Republican leader of his state.

One Standard Oil letter sent Foraker into the discard. He "got the silence"—the public lost interest in him; didn't care to hear him speak; asked nothing, in fact, except that he keep in respectable retirement.

And business men are just as much in danger of ostracism as politicians. Witness the case of J. Bruce Ismay. A year ago he was the head of a great shipping trust. His wealth was millions; the wealth he controlled, hundreds of millions. He did nothing criminal in getting away from the Titanic with his particular cronies. He was "within the law."

Yet, only a short time ago, Ismay was displaced as head of the tremendous transportation line he had controlled. The public had given him "the silence." No one wanted to see him, or hear his name, or have anything to do with any enterprise with which he was connected.

And the inspiration for this swift and relentless punishment came from as fine a factional scrap as ever agitated old Athens. It was real ward politics, just as we know it today.

Former Senator J. M. Bailey, "Oiled" Out of Public Life

Former Senator John H. Mitchell, of Oregon, Who Got Caught in Land Frauds

Former Senator Joseph Benson Foraker, Retired from Public Life by Oil Scandals

Henry O. Havemeyer, Who Died During the Sugar Trust Probe

Former Senator Joseph R. Burton, Who Dropped into Oblivion as a Result of "Get-Rich-Quick" Fees

J. Bruce Ismay, Forced into Private Life by His Conduct During the Titanic Disaster

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John A. McCall, Whose Death Followed Closely the Insurance Scandals of a Few Years Ago

Mme. Lina Cavalieri, Who Lost Opera Engagements Because of Her Erratic Marriage to "Sheriff Bob" Chanler

Gen. Russell A. Alger, Who Died from the Shock of the Canned Beef Exposures

Maxim Gorky, Who Spoiled the Russian Revolutionary Propaganda by Overlooking Marital Laws

Richard A. McCurdy, Sent to Coventry by the Insurance Scandals

William Ellis Corey, "Silenced" After His Second Marriage

The gang in power had become unpopular, and all this terrible ostracism that we dread was then but a scheme to overthrow the boss.

While sojourning in the provinces, Cleisthenes and his banished clan decided that a good way to restore their popularity would be to rebuild the Temple of Delphi, which had been destroyed by fire. For good measure, they gave Parian marble for certain portions when the contracts called only for limestone.

Even in those times, it was occasion for remark when contractors overlooked opportunities for graft and furnished better materials than the specifications called for. Result: Back to Athens went Cleisthenes, in rare good favor with the populace.

Now, at that time, the working classes were clamoring for their rights. The reforms which old Solon had inaugurated had not prevented the rich land owners from handing the masses a few cold deals.

At the head of the government was Hipparchus, a member of the Pisistratidae faction. For a time he had been successful in quieting the people's clamor by representing to them that, while the laws of Solon were certainly not all that could be wished for, he was personally looking out for their interests.

To be boss of Athens, it was, of course, necessary for Cleisthenes to get rid of Hipparchus. Straightway, therefore, the former began to take measures against tyranny.

It goes without saying that the tyrant is always the man in power. Oppression is never charged against the "under dog."

With the purest of motives—namely, to render tyranny impossible—if we are to believe his own speeches, Cleisthenes proposed that when a man became too popular he be sent away from Athens for ten years, just to show him that the people could very well get along without him.

Practical politicians of those days were not slow to see the drift of this logic; maybe even the masses caught on. Hipparchus was plainly the bird that was being aimed at. As the boss of the town, he was naturally the most likely tyrant in sight. Furthermore, the sentiment of the times was that Solon's laws were entirely antiquated, and that an entirely new legislative deal was just about what was needed to let the laboring classes catch up with their rights.

VOTED WITH POTTERY SCRAPS

There was a fine large time for a while, and the ostracism ordinance went through with a whirl. At a certain time of the year, if it were deemed necessary, the people were to meet before the archons, and deposit scraps of pottery in urns placed for the purpose, writing "ostraca" and the name of the person they wanted to get rid of on their earthenware tickets. In those days, it may be well to explain, scraps of pottery were the equivalents of our waste paper.

Six thousand votes against any one man were sufficient to send him to the backwoods for ten years.

Then, if we are to believe some authorities, Cleisthenes was the first one to suffer from the ostracism ordinance. Most historians, though, are inclined to place this report in the list of stories that sound well. At any rate, the ordinance failed of its main purpose for a long time. Boss Hipparchus had so many trusty henchmen that the necessary 6000 pottery chips couldn't be stacked up against him for a long time. He finally "got his," but it was not until about twenty years after the ordinance was adopted.

For about a century, ostracism was a popular institution. Yet it plainly had its drawbacks. During the Persian wars, when the best Grecians were needed at home, Xanthippus and Aristides were rusticating by request. And finally, when Hyperbolus got in bad with the masses, his sentence was so unnecessary that it brought the whole practice of ostracism into disrepute.

Never, though, has "the silence" lost its effectiveness. A man may just as well be sent to Coventry by unanimous consent as by casting scraps of pottery into an urn.

And any one who doubts the terrible effects of "the silence" is a poor student of practical affairs. Doctors tell us that it is worry that kills us, but as a usual thing we don't believe them, or if we do, it is in such a general way that the thing is never really brought home to us.

However, we have only to take note of a boat race to see the truth of all the doctors say. The losing team is always the one that suffers. Actually and practically its members have not put forth as much strength as the winners. Lacking the enthusiasm of victory, though, there are invariably some of the beaten ones who collapse near the line.

Similarly, it is held by many well informed persons that the heroic Captain Scott and his companions were really killed by defeat. Had they been first at the pole, they might almost have crawled that last eleven miles. Knowing that they had lost the race, however, they went

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