

If New York Is Wicked It Is Willingly That Way

In The Big City As In The Small One The Way Of The Reformer Is Hard And His Task Is A Thankless And Onerous One

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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New York, October 27—Saving New York is a thankless task. The way of the reformer is hard.

It once was said of Philadelphia that she was "corrupt and content." By the same token, if New York is wicked, she also is willing.

Dry raiders meet with success and some times with a commendation when they try to close a restaurant or old-fashioned bar. The anti-gambling squad aroused roars of protest when it arrested fifty-nine plausible players in one of the old back room resorts.

The arrest of the promoters of a neighborhood lottery was followed by great indignation on the part of persons who were trying to win the capital prize or any part of it.

They insisted the lottery was fair and square, open and above board and they were more than willing to take their chance. They cited the further fact that in some of the American republics the lottery is a national institution, just as legitimate to the Latin-Americans as the income tax is to North Americans.

Then came a series of raids on the bookmakers at the race tracks. These raids came at a time when everyone was interested in racing because of the splendidly promoted Zev-Papyrus match. The raiders were jeered and hooted and pushed about by the crowd but they always got away with a handful of the layers of odds.

This was the beginning of a crusade by the Society for the Prevention of Crime and it was frankly admitted at the headquarters of this organization that the bookmakers were not the real objective of the crusaders. They were hoping to shut up every race track about New York City. They felt that conviction under the gambling law would lead to injunctions against the Jockey Club for the operation of the tracks. They could be shut up as nuisances.

Thus far the bookmakers have had the best of it. Many of them have been dismissed by the trial magistrates and others are expecting similar treatment. Betting is not recognized at any of the tracks. The anti-bookmaking law was passed in 1908 as the result of a fight led by Charles E. Hughes, then governor of the state. Since that time there has been betting of course, but it has been regarded as a transaction between individuals with no record made or kept. "Oral betting" they have called it and attempts in the past to stop it have failed.

And now the lances of the society for the Prevention of Crime are levelled at the theaters. It is claimed that this is the worst season morally speaking, in the history of the theater in America. Perhaps that is the reason for the high prices and the crowded houses. New York doesn't want to be reformed. It protests violently against being saved.

The Rev. John S. Sumner, one of the leaders in the move to clean up New York whether it wants to be cleaned up or not, says that the stage "has touched a lower level than ever before, both in the exploitation of salacious themes and in the exhibition of nudity."

Mr. Sumner said that actually the atmosphere about some of the shows is so bad that the moral character of the scene shifters is being imperilled. About the only reform he has been able to accomplish by a direct appeal to the managers, Mr. Sumner added, was the substitution of a white light for a red light over a bedroom door in one of the revues where a burlesque on the play "Rain" was being performed.

It is now proposed to revive the "citizens' jury" and have a party of twelve disinterested persons pass judgment upon some of the Broadway productions. This plan was evolved more than a year ago, but died out before it could be used. Augustus Thomas, the Judge Landis of the theaters, is said to be willing for a test of the system and is signing up a many managers as possible to abide by the decision of the jury as to making changes or abandoning certain productions.

It is announced that four productions in particular are on the carpet for jury trial. The names of the "filthy four" have not been made public and thereby the theater goers of the metropolis, some three quarters of a million a day, are being made extremely nervous trying to discover what they are. Some of the playgoers are able to make

Students Will Be Brothers' Keepers

Wake Forest, Oct. 29—Proceeding on the brother's keeper theory the council and the legislature of the Wake Forest college student body has passed a regulation providing that members of the freshman class are not to go down at night except on Friday and Saturdays. Announcement of the addition of the regulation to the construction of the student body was made in chapel by L. E. Andrews of High Point, president of the body.

"That does not mean that members of the first year class are not allowed to go for their mail or for any article that is needed. It means that first year men are cautioned not to spend their time loafing at drug stores or other places at night," said Mr. Andrews.

W. E. Daniels, Jr., of Weldon, was elected president of the freshman

class at a meeting held following the announcement by Mr. Andrews. Other officers elected were: Murray Gibson of Wake Forest, vice-president; S. Ray Byrley of Sanford, secretary and treasurer; H. C. Lennon, historian; and William Moore, poet.

P. C. Coheon has returned from a business trip to Scotland Neck.

Arbor Day Birthday Of Late President

North Carolina Schools Have Distinction of Observing Two Days in One

Washington, Oct. 29 — "Every planter of a Harding Memorial Tree is welcome to the tree planting army," said Charles Lathrop Paek, the president of the American Tree Association, upon being informed that the schools in North Carolina were to plant memorial trees on the late president's birthday, Nov. 2.

"Schools of North Carolina will set a fine example to the rest of the country," said Mr. Paek. "They will be first schools in the nation to plant Harding trees. It so happens that Arbor Day there comes on the birth date of the late president and I hope that every school can plant a tree."

"We welcome all the tree planters to the tree planting army. There is but one way to join the American Association and that is to plant a tree and register it with the Association. Application blanks and tree day programs will be sent to any who ask for them."

"The school children of Allen County, Ohio, plan to plant 26 miles of the Harding Highway that leads from Lima to Marion. They will all be made members of the tree planting army."

"By all means let every tree planter report his good work on Arbor Day and let us have a big registration from North Carolina in the tree planting army."

Will Debate Again During This Session

Wake Forest, Oct. 29—The current issue of the "Baptist Student" published during the school year at Nashville, Tenn., in the interest of education among Baptists of the Southern states, carries a picture of the Wake Forest debating team that won over William and Jewell college of Missouri before the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City last May. The debaters shown in the cut are: W. R. Wallace, of Cumberland county; L. E. Andrews, of High Point; and M. G. Stamey of Carter. Messrs Andrews and Stamey expect to represent Wake Forest in forensic contests again this season. Mr. Wallace was graduated last spring.

pretty fair guesses, but the point is they don't know. Consequently they are wondering just which of the many salacious shows they should see a second time, before it is too late. The closing of some of the productions would cause great gloom. New York doesn't want to be saved.

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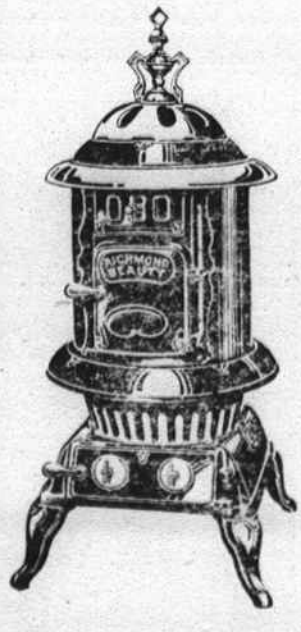
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The Weakness of Words

Language is a comparatively recent invention, and in the great moments of our lives it is of little use to us.

The English language has approximately 450,000 words, and perhaps if each of us knew them all there would be no occasion for complaint. For the needs of commerce; the interchange of ordinary social communication—for such things words are adequate.

"Words fail me!" How often we say that and MEAN it. There is good reason for it. Figured on the basis of the millions of years that mankind has inhabited the earth, language is a comparatively RECENT invention. Our primitive ancestors of ages ago drew pictures on stone to convey their thoughts. They had no alphabet.

In the great crisis of YOUR life and MY life, how weak language becomes! Civilization turns ONCE MORE to pictures—to the powerful force of the MOTION picture. How futile is the message of words compared to the strength of such a photoplay as "LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY," in which MARY PICKFORD is appearing at the Alkrama Theater Tuesday and Wednesday.

Now and then there bursts forth upon a startled world the rare genius of a Shakespeare or a Milton to give us such immortal pages that we treasure them long after their authors are dust. But where in OUR day will you find words that describe with such telling effect as in "Little Lord Fauntleroy," the wonderful influence of mother love? Where will you find words that will so quickly conquer grief and overcome despair? Here is a photodramatic CLASSIC that shows how real and vital warm, human emotions can be made; a remarkable example of how a picture can grip the heart and stir the imagination beyond anything that words could ever do. If you want a deep, emotional thrill, go to the Alkrama Theater Tuesday or Wednesday.

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