

#### "WHY AM I A LIBERAL?"

(Robert Browning.)  
 Why? Because all I happily can and do,  
 All that I am now, all I hope to be,  
 Whence comes it, save from fortune's cast  
 ting free  
 Body and soul, the purpose to pursue,  
 God-trust for both? Of fetters, not a few,  
 Or prejudice, convention, fall from me.  
 These shall I bid men, each in his degree,  
 Also God-guided, bear, and gayly, too!  
 But little do or can the best of us;  
 That little is achieved through liberty,  
 Who then dare sell, emancipated thus,  
 His fellow-hall continue bound? Not I.  
 Who live, love, labor freely, nor discuss  
 A brother's right to freedom. That is  
 my way.

VALUE OF SELF-POSSESSION.  
 The Trouble Caused by Its Lack—A Philosopher's Comments.  
 (Detroit Free Press.)  
 "See here, young man, now that you  
 brought about this discussion, and as  
 I have nothing particular to engage my  
 attention just at present, let me talk  
 with you a trifle on my hobby."  
 "I'm at your service."  
 "The average man is a good sort of  
 an animal, and if he has reached the dis-  
 tinction of being able to read and write  
 he is also possessed of sufficient intelli-  
 gence to know right from wrong—know-  
 ing that he would, in nine cases out of  
 ten, be genteel—mind you, now, I'm  
 not speaking of dress—if it were not  
 for lack of self-possession. Self-pos-  
 session. That's my hobby. Want to hear  
 about it?"  
 "I'm deeply interested."  
 "Nine men out of ten would raise their  
 hats if, while strolling through a ceme-  
 tery, they should suddenly come upon a  
 group surrounding an open grave as the  
 clergyman read the burial service, and  
 they would do so because their sur-  
 roundings would have placed them thor-  
 oughly in accord with the solemnity of  
 the scene. They would be perfectly  
 self-possessed. They would do the same  
 thing on the busiest street in the most  
 bustling city, upon meeting a funeral  
 procession, if they were only self-possessed."  
 "Possibly."  
 "Have you not many a time failed to  
 unhitch a horse for a lady, or pick up a  
 package some lady has dropped at the  
 instant when you were passing her, and  
 when a dozen feet beyond the oppor-  
 tunity have you not regretted the omis-  
 sion of the courtesy? Can you not re-  
 call scores of such chances in which you  
 have neglected to do yourself justice?"  
 "Yes, I believe I can."  
 "Of course you can. Every man can.  
 They're happening every day, and the  
 myriads of such mistakes are all ac-  
 countable to a lack of self-possession.  
 The men are few and far between, as I  
 believe, who are not sufficiently delicate  
 of appreciation to know when they may  
 bestow a courtesy, but they are also not  
 numerous who get hold of the idea in-  
 stantly and in time to act without mak-  
 ing a botch of it."  
 "Have you any theory to advance on  
 the cultivation of quick wit?"  
 "None whatever. It is a quality which  
 is born in a few, acquired by many, and  
 lost by default to the great majority.  
 When it becomes universal, then will  
 this world be a perfect place to stay in."

An Underground Grove of the Gods.  
 (Los Angeles N. M.) (Los Angeles Herald.)  
 A short time ago a great cave was  
 discovered in the Bennett mine, situated  
 in the Oregon mountains, and about  
 twelve miles from this place. This cave  
 is a veritable crystal palace, grand  
 beyond description. Under foot, over-  
 head and all around it is as white as  
 snow and clear as crystal. In some  
 places it takes the form of icicles, in  
 others the form of frosted glass. What  
 seem to be groups of trees, from four  
 to seven feet high, are seen, and have  
 been given names. Pictures of all  
 kinds of objects, such as birds, animals  
 and reptiles, may be seen, and the cave  
 is really a wonder.

Flats in the East.  
 (Chicago Times.)  
 Flats are increasing in unpopularity  
 in New York. It is said that there are  
 nearly two thousand of them for rent in  
 the city. (One objection is that it is  
 difficult to learn who are the fellow-oc-  
 cupants of the building, and the latter  
 may have dangerous diseases without  
 one's knowing it. Another is the num-  
 ber of unwelcome parties who live in  
 them. In Boston, says The Journal,  
 the popularity of the houses seems un-  
 diminished, and they are increasing at a  
 rapid rate.

The Originator of Interviewing.  
 (Chicago Herald.)  
 When the present capitol at Washing-  
 ton was opened, in 1818, the old one  
 was let to business tenants. One of  
 them, Anne Royal, ran two weekly  
 newspapers—The Paul Pry and The  
 Huntress—on the premises, and was  
 the originator of the American system  
 of interviewing. She was indicted as  
 a common scold in 1820. She lived to  
 the age of 92.

Too Many Strokes.  
 (Chicago Herald.)  
 The proposed universal day meets  
 with no encouragement from astron-  
 omers. Upon the proposition to count  
 the hours of the day from 0 to 24  
 in civil life one of them says that it  
 scarcely ever be adopted, for nobody  
 (except, perhaps, sick people lying in  
 bed), will have patience to count the  
 strokes of the clock up to twenty-four.

A High-Priced Violoncello.  
 (London Times.)  
 The famous violoncello by Stradi-  
 varius, which belonged to the two Ser-  
 vaises, father and son, the violoncellists,  
 is offered for sale. It is reported that  
 the highest bid, 60,000 francs, has been  
 made by Herr von Mendelssohn, of Ber-  
 lin, but that Mme. Servais has fixed the  
 price at 100,000 francs.

Our Seaboard City Property.  
 A government engineer points out  
 that in nine of our seaboard cities alone  
 property valued at \$3,322,000,000 is ex-  
 posed to destruction in case of war, be-  
 cause of our lack of seacoast defenses  
 adequate to cope with the navies of the  
 fighting powers.

An Old Ship.  
 A ship called the Eliza, 150 years old,  
 recently took on a cargo of provisions  
 at Quebec, destined for Newfoundland.  
 She is perfectly sound and in good con-  
 dition.

A Contrivance by Means of Which the  
 blind can play whist, is a new invention.

Method in "Postage Stamp" Madness.  
 (Boston Beacon.)  
 One of the mysteries of the age has at  
 last been made clear. For years the "mil-  
 lion postage stamp" collector has had no  
 specified aim for the collection which  
 was his dearest thought in life, and  
 such an absorbing nuisance everybody  
 hated the very sound of the word stamp.  
 Now, however, it seems there is really  
 an object to be gained by harrying  
 one's friends and acquaintances for the  
 useless things.  
 A correspondent of The London Queen  
 relates having paid a visit to an artist—  
 an old gentleman and his wife—whose  
 chief occupation for ten years had  
 been to collect and decorate their rooms  
 with postage stamps. The first room  
 had the four walls papered with  
 stamps, but until one was quite close to  
 them the delicate and precision of the  
 design could not be sufficiently appre-  
 ciated. The border was a zigzag pattern  
 of different colored stamps, after that  
 a groundwork of one color, then that  
 more small geometrical patterns, gradu-  
 ally growing larger towards the center,  
 until it culminated in one conventional  
 pattern. Other rooms were more  
 elaborately decorated, even the picture  
 frames coming in for their share, and  
 always with an artistic motive. "I can  
 imagine two old and perfectly idle peo-  
 ple amusing themselves with this novel  
 "fancy work," but the incentive of re-  
 munerating that so many people felt in  
 collecting stamps has happily been ex-  
 ploded, and it is to be hoped the craze  
 will never set in again.

Science Versus Horse Sense.  
 (Boston Herald.)  
 Last spring a gentleman of scientific  
 attainment and repute, whose residence  
 is in the suburbs, outside the area of  
 "high" or any other water service, had a  
 large tank built in his attic to store up  
 the rainwater from the roof. In time  
 came warm weather, and with it no end  
 of mosquitoes, who found this tank full  
 of placid water an excellent breeding  
 place. Accordingly it was soon liter-  
 ally alive with "wigglers," render-  
 ing the water unfit for use.  
 The man of science set to work  
 to destroy them. He supplied himself  
 with a dozen or more jars, which he  
 filled with the inhabited water. These  
 he took to his laboratory, and to each  
 he applied a different treatment, only to  
 find, after elaborate experiments, that  
 he knew of no substance which, being  
 added to the water, would destroy the  
 "wigglers" without rendering the  
 water unfit or even dangerous for use.  
 One hot and thirsty day, having given  
 up his attempts, it occurred to him to  
 mention the difficulty to the mechanic  
 who built the tank. The mechanical  
 gentleman hesitated to give advice to  
 one so much his superior in learning.  
 The man of science pressed him for a  
 suggestion.  
 "Well, if I was you," he finally said,  
 "I'd put a couple of good-sized fish in  
 the tank!"  
 The scientific man did so, and the  
 hornpouts soon cleared the tank of the  
 wigglers.

Curious Story of an Island.  
 (Argentina Cor. Kansas City Times.)  
 There is a curious story about an  
 island in the river Plata, which was a  
 horse ranch in early Spanish times. The  
 animals became so numerous that there  
 was not grass enough to feed them, and  
 no demand for their export. The own-  
 ers decided to reduce their stock in a  
 barbarous way, and when the grass was  
 dry set fire to it. Every horse on the  
 island was burned to death except those  
 that ran into the river and drowned.  
 The stench was so great that navigation  
 was almost entirely suspended on the  
 river. The result of this method of re-  
 ducing stock was a little more complete  
 than the owners anticipated, so when  
 the grass grew up again they had to buy  
 stallions and mares and start anew.

Devil Worship in Ceylon.  
 (London Times.)  
 What attracted the attention of the  
 princess (Don Carlos and suite)  
 were the various objects connected with  
 the worship of the devil. They were  
 shown a very curious collection of  
 masks, each of which represented a  
 specific malady. The mask is offered to  
 the devil while beseeching him to cure  
 the disease in question. It is placed on  
 the altar, accompanied by an offering  
 amounting to \$2. There are also a  
 number of small wooden dolls. These  
 are placed on the altar and pins are  
 stuck in the head or parts of the body.  
 During the operation the following  
 imprecation is invoked: "Mr. Devil,  
 behold your enemy! I beseech you to  
 inflict on him pains every place where I  
 insert a pin." The worship of the devil  
 is a supernatural outcome of Buddhism.  
 It is practiced by the priests, who do  
 not wish to make themselves unpopular,  
 but it is not admitted as a portion of  
 orthodox worship. The most curious  
 feature of the practice is that the devil  
 in Ceylon is not masculine, but a woman.

The South American Cowboy.  
 (Curtis' Argentina Letter.)  
 The civilized or domesticated gaucho  
 is a gambler, a loafer and a thief. He  
 is numerous throughout the country,  
 and makes a business of stealing cattle,  
 like the "rustler" of our western plains.  
 They have a curious way of removing  
 the brands, or obliterating them, and  
 changing the appearance of cattle. A  
 poultice made of a weed that grows on  
 the pampas is applied to the brand and  
 softens the hide so that the letters be-  
 come indistinct. The horns of the ani-  
 mal are kept in poultices of boiling hot  
 meal until they are soft enough to be  
 twisted out of their natural shape, and  
 when the poultice is removed they  
 harden again. The gaucho could teach  
 the North American cattle thief a great  
 many clever tricks, for he is an expert  
 in his business.

"Gambler" Reborn of the Future.  
 A Kansas paper is of opinion that in  
 the near future we shall have to depend  
 upon the Galloway cattle for our "bur-  
 falo" robes—an excellent substitute, but  
 expensive.

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**A WILLING "GOD BLESS  
YOU!"**  
**An Extraordinary Case of Cure**  
 By the Mrs. Joe Person Rem-  
 edy.  
 The following letter, dated January 14, 1885, has  
 just been received, and will be shown to any per-  
 son who is interested in the subject. Names and  
 addresses are withheld for obvious reasons:  
 "Mrs. Joe Person:  
 "Madam—On the 23rd of last May a boy child  
 well developed in every respect was born in this  
 city, but the "king of terrors" began to chafe  
 about his little heart, and notwithstanding his  
 plump and vigorous constitution the poison in the  
 blood soon began to manifest itself in what the  
 medical men term "Eczema," "Pityriasis," or "Heredi-  
 tary Taint." Some old "mothers" concluded the  
 child had the "yellow thump." Yet whatever the  
 disease it was certainly a stubborn master for the  
 doctors.  
 The mother took the little sufferer to the coun-  
 try, hoping that the pure fresh air might be bene-  
 ficial, and Dr. of Lumberton was called to  
 treat the case. He pronounced it Eczema, and did  
 all he could for it, but to no purpose, any more  
 than to check the fever to which the disease sub-  
 jected the boy.  
 "At the first frost the victim was again removed  
 to the city, and immediately Dr. was called  
 and he pronounced the disease "Pityriasis," and pre-  
 scribed accordingly, feeding up the disease on iron  
 and other minerals until the baby's month be-  
 came so sore that for two weeks it did not nurse.  
 A friend suggested as a last hope the  
 "Mrs. JOE PERSON'S REMEDY."  
 "All means of procuring any more help or medi-  
 cines had failed, and in this hour of deepest de-  
 spair the poor mother went and asked her drug-  
 gist to let her have one bottle and one package of  
 the Remedy, and was refused, because she did not  
 have the money to pay for it. She pawned her  
 wedding ring and raised \$1.50 to pay for the medi-  
 cine.  
 "When she gave the child the first dose, three  
 weeks ago to-day, the little fellow was a mass of  
 scaly sores from the hips to the knees, and at seven  
 months old had never borne his weight on his feet.  
 To-day, by the help of God and a faithful adminis-  
 tration of the Remedy the child is well and strong  
 in the legs, and last Sabbath morning while the  
 mother was weeping at the necessity of drying up  
 her breast, he took hold and nursed as strong and  
 vigorous as ever. The administration of the  
 Remedy is still kept up to effect a complete cure.  
 "Believing in its efficacy I have prevailed upon  
 Mrs. to take it for inflammatory Rheuma-  
 tism."

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