

THE GOLD LEAF

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1907.

Uncle Silas and The Word Grafting

Tells What He Knows About It and Warns of Its Dangers.

A NEW word has been sprung upon us within the last two or three years, my son, and it means a leap more to the welfare and happiness of mankind than any new word for the last fifty years.

It is called "grafting." We all know that by grafting slips into the limbs of an old apple tree a farmer can produce new and better fruit, but the word as now used doesn't relate to fruit at all except the fruits of rascality.

A few years ago the man who "grafted" would have been called a thief, a robber and a swindler, and instead of walking around among us with his hat on his ear and boasting of his financial acumen he'd have been hustled into state prison.

Just at present we have a spasm of honesty on. We are willing to be robbed and swindled and sent to the poorhouse, and we are willing to use soft terms toward those who despoil us. If a chap should come into our yard and steal our horse, he would be a thief; if a man were worth a million dollars and he were to steal a thousand from us he is only a "grafter" and must not be brought to justice.

There is "grafting" going on all over the land. None is so high or so low as to be suspected of it. In order not to hurt any one's feelings you should substitute the word "maneuvering" as often as possible. The man who "maneuvers" you out of your job or your money is only a "grafter" and must not be brought to justice.

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At rare intervals your "grafter" is caught with the goods on him. There was a slip somewhere. He never meant to be caught. He doesn't throw up his hands, however. He employs from three to six first class lawyers; his friends kindly "fix" from three to six of the jury; some one with a political pull sees the judge. When the case comes to trial we find that we have been calling a shining light of honesty a thief and are liable in heavy damages. Apologies are handed out all around, and he goes on his way to "graft" some more.

The air is full of it, my son. Almost every corporation and public official is full of it. We can't live without paying "grat" for everything we eat and drink and wear, and we can't die without being buried in a trust coffin. I've been slashing around on earth for sixty-four years, and I can't remember a time when it came harder on human nature to be honest. It's a pretty hard thing for one man to buckle down and saw wood at 60 cents a cord when another is making \$20 a day by "financing." While Farmer Reub is grubbing out a bare living in his fields the constable his vote helped to elect is making \$15 a day by permitting voters to speak at a higher limit than the law says.

Nevertheless, my son, my advice to you is to hang on to yourself. Don't be carried away by the manuevering excitement. If the man who was called a robber five years ago is referred to as a grafter today another five years may change things back. As a people we get streaks on. We seem to go to

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the devil for a few years and forget that there is such a thing as integrity, and then we haul up short and begin to fill the state prisons with shining lights. There are signs in the air that a change is coming. When it comes the judge who is holding stock in a trust, the jurymen who have been taking bribes, the banker who has been in a palace all your days. Dot vms all Vlen shall you bring in some shoes to be mended?"

"Never, you old wretch!" she shouts at me as she grows red in der face. "Do you know I vvas a married vvhoman and der mother of seven children! I go right avay to der police and haf you arrested. Shoes? Why, I don't bring you some shoes to be mended if you vvas starving to death!"

"I vvas taking down der sign and going out of der fortune business when a fat man comes in and says: 'Hold on a minute, cobbler. I haf ten pairs of shoes to be mended, and I bring 'em around after you have told my fortune. Go ahead and tell me all you can.'"

"Vvhen you are going to have some good luck," I says, "dot vvas good." "You need some money in your business, but you don't know where to get it."

"Dot's a fact." "In one evening from now you vill go out in der evenings and sit in der park to hear der crickets sing. On der bench beside you you will find a wallet mit \$10,000 in it."

"But I vill have to return it to der loser, who vill probably be some nurse girl!"

"No, you won't. Dot wallet belongs to a director of a life insurance company. For twenty years he has drawn a salary of \$20,000 a year und done nottings. His conscience now accuses him, and he leaves dot money on der bench for some poor man. It vvas yours. Take it and be happy."

"Und dot vill surely happen to me?" he asks. "Sure, Mike." "Vvhen, sometimes else shall happen too. I shall find an old lady. His name shall be Hansen, der cobbler. I shall reach out like dis and take him by der neck und turn him around und give him five kicks—so, und maybe he won't receive innocent peoples no more?"

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Top Lifer. "What are your favorite books?" asked the literary person. "Really," answered Mrs. Shoppleigh, "I can't name them all offhand, but my husband's pocketbook heads the list."—Houston Post.

Winnie wailed and Winnie wheezed, while winter winds whined wistfully. Willie whined while Winnie wheezed wretchedly. Wind whimpers, winter winds whine wretchedly. Wherefore we write, "Use Kennedy's Laxative Cough Syrup." Nothing else so good. Sold at Parker's Two Drug Stores.

Our Raleigh Letter. GORMAN NEWS BUREAU, Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 4. If the lawyers in the Legislature get through looking after their own and agree upon the provisions of the measure now pending in the Senate to fix the compensation of the prosecuting officers of the sixteen judicial districts of the State, several other bills of State importance will this week get a chance to pass through the legislative hopper.

TRADE MARK F.S.R. REGISTERED. F. S. ROYSTER GUANO CO., Norfolk, Va. have been the standard Cotton and Tobacco guanos in the South—because great care is used in the selection of materials. Ask your dealer for Royster's goods and don't take substitutes said to be just as good. See that the trade-mark is on every bag.

Let Us Put a Buck's in Your Kitchen. Buck's are cooks, bakers and happy home makers. You'll find Buck's Stoves are the most economical and labor saving on the market. The oven of a Buck's Stove is roomy, well ventilated and perfectly sanitary. Come in and let us show you our line. Daniel & Company.

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HOW MUCH FERTILIZER TO APPLY. The question, "How much fertilizer should be used per acre?" cannot be answered definitely, but only in a general way. It is sometimes put in this form: "What is the most profitable amount that may be applied per acre?"

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