

## On Being Obvious.

By Randolph Forbes.



In a recent magazine article, a certain clever writer pokes some innocent fun at the commonplace people of this commonplace world who are prone to make what one might call "obvious remarks." The man is laughed at, who, when he takes a glass of water at a gulp, says to you: "After all, old man, there's nothing like a good cold glass of water to quench one's thirst!"

But is it just to laugh at him? Think how simple he makes your share in the conversation. All you have to reply is, "Yes," and he is wholly satisfied, and you are saved the exertion of trying to make a clever reply to what might have been from him a brilliant epigram.

There lies the whole trouble. If you mingle constantly with inordinately clever people you will soon find yourself endeavoring to be as witty and bright as they; and unless you have been endowed by Nature with a gift for the light quip and jest, you are apt to become an awful bore—and from all bores, good Lord deliver us!

Personally, I am fond of the steady, easy-going people who tell me that they prefer comedy to tragedy because there is so much tragedy in real life; or those who invariably tell you that "anyhow, education is something that no one can take away from you;" or, "How time flies!" or "You wouldn't enjoy your meals at hotels so much if you could have a peep at some of the kitchens." They save me my breath, and they are very restful—if I do not stay with them too long. They certainly keep me from attempting to be too clever; and with all my heart and soul I loathe people who are too clever.—From Puck.

## Miscalled English Conservatism

By Louise Imogen Guiney.



THE most singular circumstances about this modern national inertia, miscalled conservatism (true conservatism being a most militant thing), is that it proves to be a source of prodigious pride to the kingdom which has complacently sunk into it. It is looked upon as "English"—that is, it means dignity, safety, moderation, peace. That it means provincialism, that it means death, is patent to nobody but some upstairs bonnet rouge of a critic. It is hard to get

people to see that as in the world of thought doubt is cheap and belief the intellectual thing, so in the world of action perfunctoriness is cheap and enthusiasm the intellectual thing. Whenever a man of genius is bred in England, endowed necessarily with faith and ardors of one sort or another, he usually stands out from his racial environment in an absolutely bewildering way. In the United States the man of genius is a far less frequent phenomenon, for Nature uses her phosphorus freely there on divers and sundry, and has no surplusage and arrears of brains to make him out of; but when he does appear, is he not curiously like Americans in general? The man of genius overseas is not so homogeneous. Would it be rash to hint that he, too, is often curiously like Americans in general? This is simply because ideas and their purveyors have no standing to speak of in one country, and are the very life of the other. An idea arriving in New York harbor is recognized instantly, and to its own dismay, as a prince travelling in disguise, who must be interviewed before the gangway is fixed at the dock; whereas in England every idea is de facto a pauper and vagrant, repeatedly hauled before the magistrates and accused of brawling in churches, or else (only too accurately!) of having no visible means of support.—From "English Reserve," in the Scribner's Magazine.

## Chinese Opinion Kindly To Missionaries

By Chester Holcombe.



THE Chinese Imperial Government has recently despatched two commissions, composed of officials of high rank and a numerous staff, to visit and study various important subjects in America and Europe. When arrangements were being made for the visit of the first of these commissions to Boston, and a long list of points in or near the city which they might wish to see was submitted to them, among the first selected were the offices of the American Board, the parent of all foreign missionary organizations in the United States and having large interests in that work in China. The selection of this active centre of foreign evangelistic effort was unguided and entirely spontaneous. In their addresses and informal remarks during the visit to those offices the commissioners expressed in unqualified terms their appreciation and strong approval of the missionary enterprise in China and their gratitude for what had been and was being done there. "We know who are our friends," said they again and again. Yet neither of the Chinese commissioners was a convert to Christianity; they were under no obligation to visit one of the headquarters of American missionary effort in China or, being there, to go beyond polite and non-committal remarks. Hence, and all the more, their declarations insist in all fairness be taken as strong official indorsement and approval.

With much the same feelings they expressed their delight at what they saw at Wellesley College and recognized in it the grander development of what American women were attempting to do for the women of China.

To speak quite frankly and to the fact, for many years more unfriendly criticism and complaint of the presence of missionaries and their work in China has been heard from foreigners, either, like them, alien residents in the Far East, or at home than from Chinese officials or people.—Atlantic Monthly.

## Too Many Destructive Laws

By Professor Jeremiah W. Jenks, of Cornell University.



WE have had many laws merely destructive in their nature. Experience shows, first, that these laws have not been generally and impartially enforced. Had they been so enforced in some instances practically every trade unionist, every member of a grocers' association, even every clerk or salesman who agreed to devote his business energies solely to the interests of his employer during the period of contract, would now be occupying a felon's cell. Usually such laws have been ignored in small places, and in reference to smaller combinations, and have been enforced only against some of the larger, although quite possibly in some instances, at least, against some of the more grasping and unscrupulous of the combinations. But even when these laws have been enforced they have at times led to higher prices for the consumers, and in other instances, although effective in form, they have been non-effective in fact. Though the corporations have nominally been dissolved, practically their members have worked together as efficiently as before. It may indeed be said that this exaggerated attack upon agreements of all kinds, reasonable and unreasonable, has been one factor, perhaps the most prominent factor, in driving together into a rigid, single organization establishments that without this pressure of an unwise law would have remained in great part competitive, although acting under agreements in certain particulars. People who complain most loudly against the concentration of our railways and the growth of our giant corporations have largely to thank the baleful influence of destructive legislation.

## Stability, Calmness, Reason Versus Passion

By Gov. Chas. E. Hughes.

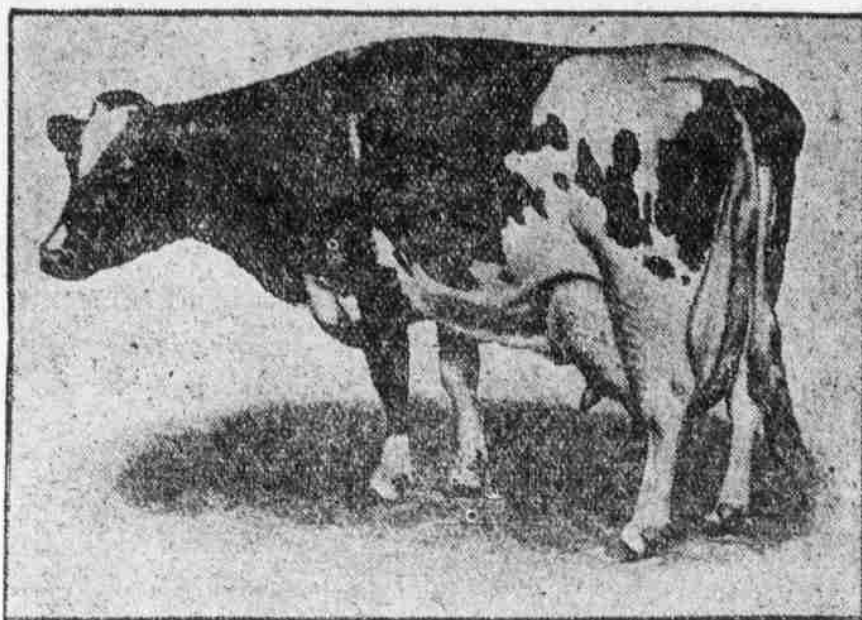


CONFIDENCE depends upon the assurance of stability. By stability is not meant fixity of things or relations, but steadiness. It may be steadiness in motion. Paradoxical as it may seem, human society cannot be stable unless it is progressive. That is because growth and progress are the law of our nature.

Reason demands the facts. By the requirement of publicity is not meant sensationalism or distorted emphasis. Reason in its rule of governmental activities demands even, impartial and consistent enforcement of the law. Stability and confidence can never be assured save by strength and firmness.

It is an egregious blunder to suppose that to make the administration of government and the enforcement of law a matter of caprice involves danger only as to the subject directly concerned. The evil cannot be so confined, but poisons the whole governmental system.

## Champion Butter Cow.

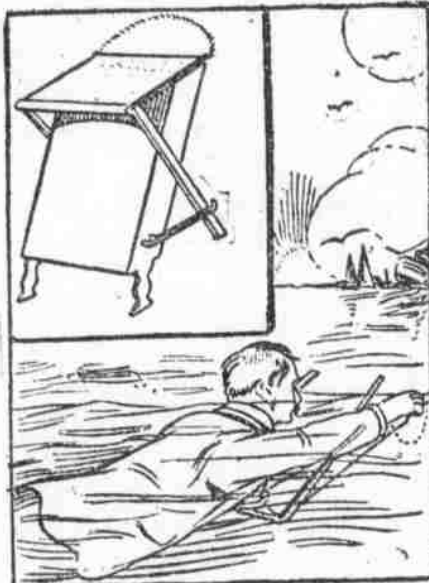


A USEFUL AND DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Since 1904 she has been the champion butter cow of the world. Last January she gave 2954 lbs. of milk in 30 days. Once, in 7 days, she produced 34.32 lbs. of butter. —From Collier's Weekly.

### Life-Preserving Chair.

One of the principal causes of great loss of life in accidents or disasters occurring on the water by reason of the collisions of vessels or from similar circumstances results from the



fact that the life-preservers provided for the use of the passengers are usually placed in some inaccessible position where they cannot be obtained quickly by the excited persons. This is especially true on the usually crowded excursion steamers that ply between coast resorts. Instances are known where many lives would have undoubtedly been saved if each passenger had had at hand a life-preserver at the time of the accident. It is manifestly inconvenient for each passenger to carry a life-preserver. Realizing the above conditions, a New York man has designed and patented a combined steamer chair and life-preserver, shown here. The steamer chair is in all practical respects similar to the ordinary camp stool, but it is constructed to serve as a life-preserver as well. The party using the chair will have always at hand a buoyant support in the event that it is necessary to thrust himself in the water. The chair is light and can be folded and readily carried from place to place, while as a life-preserver it is always at hand for use whenever the emergency requires.—Washington Star.

### Boiling It Down.

The Athenaeum says of the following Howells paragraph that it is the best English sentence, perhaps, in any recent English book. Describing a certain ancient edifice Mr. Howells writes and the Athenaeum quotes: "What, in the heart of all this blossoming, was the great Cathedral itself, when we came in sight of it, but a vast efflorescence of the age of daylight for twenty years."

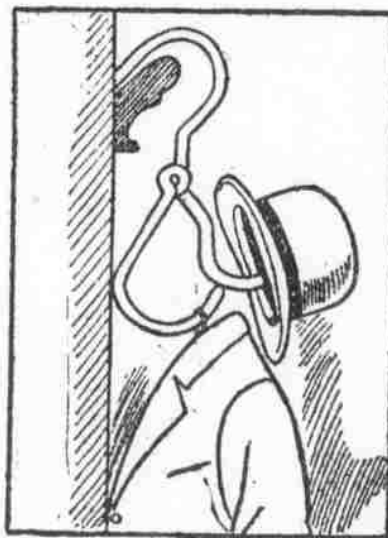
faith, mystically beautifully in form, and gray as some pale exhalation from the mould of the ever-cloistered, the deeply re-forested past!"

Very fine, all must admit. But wouldn't that paragraph have been meat and drink to the man who used to mark up Mr. Howells' newspaper copy back in Bucyrus, Ohio! If Howells the reporter had written that for the Bucyrus Blade he would have found it in the paper the next day about like this:

"The cathedral, with flowers all around it, looks fine. It is four hundred years old and needs paint."—Galveston News.

### Novel Garment Holder.

A New York inventor thinks it would be advisable for every man to carry a coat and hat hook in his pocket. If thus equipped he need never worry whether or not he will find all the available hooks in the restaurant occupied when he goes to dine: This novel folding pocket coat and hat hook is shown in the accompanying illustration. When not in use it can be quickly folded up and carried in the pocket, without inconvenience to the owner. When emergency demands it can be as readily brought into commission and attached to the molding or wall or any other



convenient object close to the owner. In addition, being a private hook, the owner is saved the nuisance of having half a dozen other patrons of the establishment piling their hats and coats on top of his.—Washington Star.

Electric haulage has supplanted animal power in the Comstock lode and twelve of the mules which were brought to the surface had not seen but a vast efflorescence of the age of daylight for twenty years.

### CHANGED THE TOPIC.



The Coquette—"Really, Mr. Bagg, I was so dreadfully bored that I simply had to yawn; but, of course, I hid my mouth with my hand." Mr. Bagg—"No! You don't mean to say that such a dear, sweet, tiny little hand could hide such a—er—such a great—that is, of course—lovely weather, isn't it?"—Sketch.



New York City.—Simple blouses are those apt to be in demand at this season of the year, and this one is novel and attractive, while it involves

### Imported Coats.

Vagueness of outline is perhaps the most impressive feature of imported coats.

### Attached Collars.

It is quite the fashion now to put the turnover collar into the neck-band. This sounds extravagant, but if the sleeve is long the turnover cuff, which is always attached, soils as easily as the collar and necessitates the shirt waist going to the wash.

### Pointed Tunic With Skirt.

The tunic drapery is one of the very latest decrees of fashion and is really exceedingly graceful and very generally becoming when cut on such lines as those illustrated. It is generally classic in effect and it drapes the figure with real grace, while it is adapted to every material that will drape successfully. This one is arranged over a closely fitted skirt that is finished with a circular flounce at the lower edge. As illustrated the material is crepe de Chine with trimming of applique in self color.

The skirt consists of the tunic, the circular flounce and the five gores of the under portion. The gores fit the figure snugly and the circular flounce is joined to their lower edge. The



very little labor in the making. There is the centre-front, or vest-like portion, which gives a distinctly novel effect, while it also allows of the in-



visible closing at the left of the front, and there are kimono sleeves which can be used or not as liked. In the illustration linen is trimmed with soutache braid and with banding of porcelain blue, this use of color on white being one of the notable features of the season.

The blouse is made with fronts, centre-front and back. The fronts are tucked for their entire length, the outermost tucks meeting those in the back, and it is beneath these tucks that the kimono sleeves are attached. The centre-front is simply arranged over the fronts and is hooked into place beneath the left edge, the fronts meeting at the centre beneath. The sleeves are of moderate fulness and gathered into straight cuffs. There is a prettily shaped belt and the stock collar completes the neck edge.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four and one-fourth yards twenty-one, twenty-four or thirty-two, two and three-fourth yards forty-four inches wide, with four yards of banding and soutache, according to design used.

### Band of Colored Linen.

A novel piece of neckwear consists of a band of colored linen that surrounds the lower part of the white linen collar, meets at the front and falls from there to the belt, being closed all the way down with white pearl buttons and forming a waistcoat effect when the suit coat is buttoned.

### Braid Embroidery.

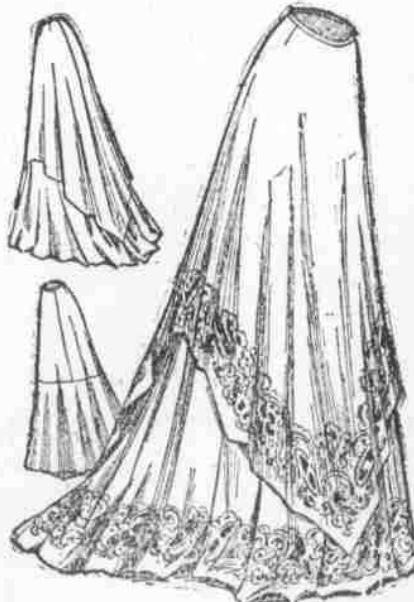
A soft peach colored cloth was embroidered with braid of precisely the same tone. The braiding made a pattern across the front in panel shape all the way up to the neck, while the same trimming was used at each side and in the middle of the back.

### Empire Train For Evening.

The Empire train is the newest development in evening and reception gowns.

### Fashionable Wraps.

Some of the most costly wraps for day use show a tendency toward dark shades.



tunic is on one piece and is fitted by means of darts at the hips, while it is arranged over the skirt and the two are joined to the belt. If walking length is desired, both skirt and tunic can be cut off on indicating lines.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is eight yards twenty-seven, six and one-fourth yards forty-four or four and five-eighth yards fifty-two inches wide, with nine yards of applique for tunic

and flounce; three and one-fourth yards twenty-one, one and five-eighth yards thirty-six inches wide for the upper portion of the skirt.

### The New Sleeve.

Big at the armhole and tight at the wrist is the latest decree for it. When pleated the sleeve has the effect of a folding water cup.

Very frequently the armhole is so wide that its lower edge is even with the waist.