

Frantic Endeavor Retards Achievement

Germany Fast Outstripping Both England and United States in Industrial Field.

By Dr. C. H. Parkhurst



AMERICAN hustle is putting its blight upon everything that really deserves to be called substantial American progress. We have recently been informed by one who has had exceptional opportunity to acquaint himself with the facts that with all the crowding and prodding that distinguish the American schoolroom, there is less to show for it than is secured by the more steady and composed discipline of German instruction.

A German is never in a hurry, but he does as much as an American, and does it better and more thoroughly and with less wrench to himself and to other people. We call him phlegmatic, which means, if properly understood, that he is to such a degree master of himself that he can cover a great deal of ground without going all to pieces in the process. And whatever flings we have made at German inertness, we are all prepared to say that Germany is still to a considerable extent the world's schoolmaster in all matters of profound thought, that Germany is rapidly overtaking England and America in the field of industrial competition, and when it comes to a question of military genius and preparation Germany would quite likely be able to whip all the rest of Europe.

But the most serious feature of frenzied American activity is not that we are not doing as good and solid work as would be accomplished were our activity of a less wearing and distracting kind, but that it leaves the minds of the people in that tumultuous condition that tends to render them insensible to any influence except such as emanate from the field of material interest and ambition.

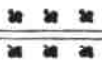
This is not a season when men are deeply meditating, it is not a season when men are praying. And that is not simply because they are in too much of a hurry to think or pray, but because their strain and distraction destroy their capacity for reflection and devotion; and material results, all our country through, are being purchased at the expense of physical exhaustion, intellectual confusion, moral debility and spiritual sterility.

Everybody deprecates this condition of things, but everybody, or almost everybody, gives way to it. We have acquired the habit of being in a hurry. It has become a kind of second nature with us to do as much as we can do naturally and then to add another stint to it and to hold our watch in our hands while we are doing it. The shortening of the time by one hour for running a steamer from New York to Queenstown sends a thrill through the entire body of what we call modern civilization.

Civilization is one of the severest diseases from which the race is suffering. And the irrationality of the situation is evidenced by the fact that the feeling of the people generally is that the present pace is a pace that kills and the severer the tension the less there is to show for it in the way of comfort and satisfaction. In point of hustle and nervous perturbation, Heaven were to be like New York or almost any American city—except, perhaps, Philadelphia—we should pray to be sent somewhere else.

It is not work, even hard work, that puts people out of sympathy with the things that are finest and best. Work rationally indulged in is a means of grace, but frenzy is a kind of interior cataclysm that knocks everything out of place and involves men in unintelligible and unproductive confusion. Christians, in particular, ought to set the example of reserving to themselves sufficient leisure and maintaining in their souls and atmosphere of quiet to enable them to come often into fellowship with God.

The spirit of the times is in these respects bad. You know it. The enforced and nervous pressure is disastrous so far as relates to what is best in life and finest in the individual soul. Christianity rose in successful revolt against Paganism. Now the temper of today's spirit in all this matter of nervous haste and conscientious rush is pagan, as truly so as though it were being practised in old Borneo or Madagascar. And it is for the church, and for Christians and for you to lead off in an old-fashioned apostolic revolt against this despotism of pagan frenzy and to settle down into that rational mode of life whose very quietness shall carry in it something of the spirit of Jesus.



Young at Seventy

Aldrich's Life Touched a Surprisingly Wide Segment of American Literature.

By Ferris Greenleaf



HE annals of American poetry are a remarkable record of longevity. The poets of our first rank, barring tragic Poe, have lived to an honored and benignant old age. Thomas Bailey Aldrich was no exception in the calendar of years, yet even at three score and ten it was hard to think of age and him together. Blond, erect, ruddy, alert, he seemed at seventy untouched by mortality. More than Lowell even, he was the perennial boy. And to his biographer, curiously inquiring into the vanished days of that long singularly fortunate life, the image that overlays all others is that of "Tom Bailey," the bad boy, who was yet "not such a very bad boy." The exquisite lyric poet, the imitable story-writer, the accomplished editor, the witty, urbane man of letters, all take in the mind a coloring of sincerity and soundness, or mischief and mirth, from that Portsmouth boyhood which makes his whole life seem not only its fulfillment, but in strange sense its prolongation.

It is, then, with a certain surprise that one becomes aware of the wide segment of American literature that his life touched. And it is precisely in this that one prime interest of his letters lies. Through them, as through the candid eyes of Tom Bailey, we watch the flow and ebb of the literary tides of more than half a century.—From the Century.

Thrift

By Ramsey Benson



THRIFT was discovered by a Scotchman whose name has come down to us. The modern tendency is to forgive him, on the assumption that he could not possibly know what he did.

Thrift was brought over to this country in the Mayflower, which gives it a certain claim upon our respect. The cavaliers of Carohus Rex were making it hot in England for thrift, sobriety, decency and all the rest of that merry crew, and that is why these were seeking a home in the New World. They left unstained what there they found, to wit freedom to worship God without having to dig up for license and costly vestments.

In a kingdom power derives from prescription, but in a democracy from thrift. The men who run things with us make no denial that thrift has put them where they are, with a trifle of judicious speculation, from time to time, as the opportunity has offered.

Thrift dominates our national councils. Witness our \$400,000,000 navy, staving off a \$500,000,000 war, and leaving us \$100,000,000 ahead, not to speak of the moral uplift.

Thrift is what the New England theologians really mean when they speak of saving grace. Faith, hope and charity are graces, but they are not so very saving, especially charity, the greatest of these.—From Life.

"ONE TOUCH OF NATURE."



—Cartoon by Robert Carter, in the New York American.

1908 Made Big Suicide Gains

10,852 Persons Ended Their Lives, Making New Record in Line of Endeavor.

Chicago.—The crime and casualty records for 1908, as collected by the Chicago Tribune in its annual summary, show some interesting phases. Probably the most striking feature is the steady increase in the number of suicides and the great percentage of these that are traceable to the business depression and embarrassments of the year. Self-destruction due to these causes grew fivefold over the record of the year before, despite the fact that the financial squeeze began early in the fall of 1907. As a weapon of self-destruction the revolver gained greatly in favor.

Embezzlements involved a larger total than in 1907, and a peculiar phase of this record is that more than two-thirds of this crime, figured on a monetary basis, is chalked up against bank officials and employees. The reform wave seems to have had a good effect on public officials.

The homicide record—deaths of all kinds by personal violence—increased over 1907, but fell short of that of the previous year. The death toll for holiday sports aggregated 368 deaths and 3820 injuries.

The number of suicides for 1908 was 10,852 as reported in the public press. The following list shows the steady increase of self-murder: 1899, 5340; 1900, 6735; 1901, 7245; 1902, 8291; 1903, 8597; 1904, 9240; 1905, 9982; 1906, 10,125; 1907, 10,782; and 1908, 10,852.

The causes of these suicides are stated as follows, the chief ones being a general one: Despondency, 5318; unknown, 1541; insanity, 810; domestic infelicity, 778; ill health, 718; business losses, 632; liquor, 536, and disappointed in love, 519.

Three thousand one hundred and two persons shot themselves. In the remaining cases 2735 died by poison, 1936 by asphyxiation, 1041 by hang-

ing, 1004 by drowning, 825 by cutting throat, 55 leaping from roofs or windows, 65 by throwing themselves in front of engines, 31 by stabbing, 27 by fire, 3 by dynamite and 1 by starvation.

Embezzlements, forgeries and bank wrecks, amounting to \$13,555,538, are in excess of those of last year. Ten bank presidents, twenty-eight cashiers, eleven bank clerks and four brokers have made way with \$10,085,472, while agents, forgers, postmasters, public officials, loan association managers and ordinary clerks combined have stolen only about \$3,500,000. Some slight moral compensation was made on the part of thirty of these fifty-two financiers, who committed suicide.

A noticeable feature of this record is the steady increase of murder by highwaymen and thugs, being 101 more than in 1907.

That more care has been exercised in hunting is shown by the decrease in casualties. During the hunting season proper 75 persons were killed and 91 injured, and out of season 109 killed and 35 injured, a total of 166 killed and 126 injured, as compared with 191 killed and 155 injured in 1907.

The principal epidemic was the cholera, which prevailed in Russia and Eastern Asia and the Philippines; 7700 died in Russia, 12,000 in the Philippines and 20,000 in China.

In the innumerable baseball fields 65 were killed and 59 seriously injured, nearly all of whom belonged outside of the league clubs. In the football field 18 were killed and 318 injured.

The persons who rock the boat have drowned 8, and the criminally reckless who didn't know it was loaded have killed 41 and wounded 21.

France is the World's Banker

Enormous Yearly Savings—Great Investments Abroad—Wealth is \$1100 Per Capita.

Paris.—Although general trade conditions in France, as in other European countries, suffered in 1908, largely because of the reduction in American demand, following the financial crisis, figures submitted by M. Leroy Beaulieu and other statisticians at the end of the year regarding the wealth of the French people demonstrate the imposing strength of France's financial position and her right to the title of "the world's banker." France's fortune is growing steadily, as the result of an annual saving of \$1,000,000,000, much of which must seek investment abroad.

M. Leroy Beaulieu's figures show that France now receives \$360,000,000 as an annual income from foreign holdings, which are principally government stocks, the amount having been almost doubled in the last fifteen years. He estimates the present wealth of the French people at \$45,000,000,000, or more than \$1100 for every man, woman and child, and as the estimate is based on de-

clared succession taxes, it is admittedly far below the real figures. In addition, Mr. Leroy Beaulieu takes no account of the great amount of gold and securities which the French, especially the peasants, keep concealed. These probably rival the hidden treasures of India.

During the last fifteen years \$521,400,000 in gold was loaned abroad, yet the excess importation amounted to \$785,800,000. In 1900 the gold holdings of the Bank of France increased by \$200,000,000; they now stand at \$700,000,000, the largest in the history of the bank. The other banks hold \$834,800,000.

The balances of trade, which in 1893 amounted to \$140,000,000 against France, are now in France's favor. Increased taxation, however, keeps pace with the increased wealth, the budget of 1905, owing to the purchase of the Western Railroad and extraordinary expenses in connection with Morocco, being the highest in the history of the country not excepting the war period.

Sergeant Draws Big Sum Through Army Deposit Plan.

San Francisco, Cal.—Charles Harvey, a retired soldier, who has been post quartermaster sergeant at Fort Rosecrans for some time, drew from Colonel George R. Smith, chief paymaster, \$13,000, the amount he has saved from his pay through the army deposit plan.

This is the second largest sum the chief paymaster of this department has ever paid to a soldier. Besides this amount Harvey will receive for the rest of his life \$67.59 a month.

Color Rays a Cure For Ind Crims.

Philadelphia.—Cases of drunkenness and of juvenile delinquency cured by application of violet-colored lights were presented by Dr. J. Frank Wallis, of the Norrisstown State Insane Asylum before the Philadelphia Medical Society.

"Light starvation," the doctor declared, "causes criminals."

"With the development of the use of light energy as a curative agent drunkenness and crime will disappear."



For the Younger Children...

STAYING UP LATE.
One evening when my bedtime came
I didn't want to go.
So mother said I might stay up
For just this once, you know.

And so I staved and stayed and stayed,
Through all the night, I think,
And never went to bed at all
Nor slept a little wink.

But when at last the sun arose,
A-shining warm and red,
I found I had my nighty on,
And was sitting up in bed.
—Alden Arthur Knipe, in St. Nicholas.

A HOME MADE DOLL HOUSE.

It sounds very ambitious to make a doll's house as well as all the furniture at home, but it is not at all difficult, and a very delightful way of amusing one's self and others as well. It will certainly prove a most fascinating occupation for the long dull winter days.

The doll's house should really be made first so as to have a place to put the furniture in as you finish it. There are several ways of making the doll's house, and we will describe two of these. To make it in cardboard you will want four small hat boxes all the same size, and of as strong a cardboard as you can get; these can be had at a draper's shop for a few pennies. They are then glued together two on top of each other, so that you have four rooms. To make them firmer it is a good way to put a piece of millboard between the two top and bottom rooms; this must of course be glued on; it makes the floors so much stronger; also cut a piece of the millboard an inch bigger all around to go on the top of the house; this makes the eaves, and the roof is then put on to this. The roof is made of two straight pieces of cardboard joined together, with the two ends also glued on. The best way to join them is to glue a strip of coarse tape on to the two pieces of cardboard, forming it into the right shape and gluing the two side pieces on in the same way. The next thing is to paint the house; it must be sized first or the paint will sink in too much; then paint the roof, the two sides and the back. The roof looks best in black with a white chimney pot. The front part of the house, which opens, is made with two pieces of millboard glued together to make it stronger; they should be cut the size of the front of the house; any stationer will do this for you, as it is rather hard to cut yourself; this is fastened on to the side with two small hinges. The windows and door are drawn in before the front is painted, and these are done last; the door might be dark green with the panels picked out in a lighter shade; the windows are painted gray to represent glass with white lines across to divide the panes of glass, and curtains may also be painted to give it a more home like and furnished appearance; these could be either white or yellow. The house would require two coats of paint but need not be varnished. When the paint is quite dry the rooms are to be papered each a different color, and then the furniture can be made to match each room. The ceilings should be all papered in white; the bedroom carpet might be of some pretty chints, the dining-room and drawing-rooms of some thin serge or any other suitable material you may have; you can get samples of floor cloth in paper which do splendidly for the kitchen; most drapers have this and would give you a piece.

A more elaborate way of painting the house is to first put on a good thick coat of white paint, and when this is dry to put a thick coat of red paint over this, and before this is dry to mark out the bricks with a piece of stick pointed at the end. This requires care, as you must not put your hand on to the red paint, but it looks very pretty when finished.

To make the other doll's house you would want a sugar box from the grocer's or a good sized soap box, then you put in one or two shelves according to the size you want your rooms to be. The shelves are made of a much thinner wood, and it is best to get a carpenter to cut these out the correct size; then nail some thin strips of wood on the two sides and back of the house on to which you slip the shelves and fasten them down firmly on to these with nails. Partitions can be put between the rooms if thought necessary in the same way that the shelves were put in. The lid on the box does for the door, and the whole must be sized before painted, and then proceed in the same manner as for the other house. This makes a stronger house, but is more difficult to make, and the other way is a very good one, and cannot be broken very easily.—The Girls' Own Paper.

Gertrude Maud back into her bed, and covered Gladys Emily carefully in the doll carriage, and started with lagging footsteps toward the kitchen. She filled the big dishpan with hot water, and gave the glasses, then the silver, their morning bath. Somehow the large kitchen seemed lonely, without either mamma or Janet, in spite of the fact that the sunshine was streaming in brightly through the windows. Then a sudden thought came to her.

"I'll bring the dolls out here and make believe they are helping me," she said to herself.

So Gertrude Maud and Gladys Emily, and the smaller dolls, Hetty and Lillian, and black Alice with her apron and turban, looking very much fitted for her task, were all seated in a row on the big table, with their backs against the wall and their feet sticking out straight in front of them.

Then Isabel began her game. "The plates you shall wash and wipe," she said, addressing Gertrude Maud, "cause you're the biggest."

So Isabel carefully washed and wiped the plates, and placed them in front of Gertrude.

"And the cups and saucers belong to you, Gladys. Be sure to do them nicely," she said.

Then they were done, and piled on the table by Gladys.

The smaller dolls, Hetty and Lillian, had the little butterplates and oatmeal dishes to do.

It was great fun. Isabel made believe that they didn't want to do them at all, and then had to scold them a little and remind them that such tasks had to be done by little girls, and it was well to learn how to do them properly.

Black Alice had the frying-pan and oatmeal pot to do. But the next time Isabel had the dishes to do alone, and the dollies helped, Gertrude Maud did the pans, "cause it doesn't seem fair, just 'cause she's black for her to do the hard part always."

When mamma came in and saw the row of dollies and the nicely washed dishes, she was much pleased with Isabel's little game of dishwashing and dolls.—Woman's Home Companion.

IN OLD HOLLAND.
It was an Englishman who said:
"The children of Holland take pleasure in making
What the children of England take pleasure in breaking."

If he had seen the Breibien School of Laren he could have made a newer and a better proverb, says St. Nicholas.

Every bright day four little Dutch maids sit on the bench before Mervrouw Kosta's door and Janika teaches them to knit. Anna, who is ten, clicks her needles fast and evenly, but Wilhelmina, who is only six, crooks her fat, pudgy fingers painfully round the yarn and sighs.

She knows well that it is necessary to be clever to live in Laren, for Laren, let me tell you, is a most distinguished place, very different from the rest of Holland; and Wilhelmina knows it is quite mountainous there, for it is thirteen feet above the sea. But to be clever it is necessary to knit heels as well as legs of stockings; so she keeps at it, while, inside the cottage, Mervrouw Kosta is spinning yarn on a big spinning wheel, and you can hear the cheerful hum of the bobbin.

When the sun sends out long, level rays across the flat, green fields, and the windmill throws its queer shadow down the hard, white road, Wilhelmina's and Nettie's plump legs carry them home with a right good will, their wooden shoes clattering down the road toward the sunset, as the long Dutch twilight begins.

What Teeth Answer For.
It is to the teeth that the pathologist should first look for an explanation of those emotional crises in the lives of all of us which assume now the form of an exaggeration of the sentiment of romantic love, again an intensification of insomnia and sometimes a development of religious sensibility to the boundary line of mania. In making good this theory the professor of diseases of the nervous system in the Western Reserve University, Dr. Henry S. Upson, ascribes many of the ordinary cases of nervous wreck met with in daily experience to a misunderstanding of the dental mechanism of man. Not only is toothache the cause, but disease of a dental nature involving no pain whatever to the victim, works its havoc and leads men and women to madhouses, domestic miseries and every kind of excess.—Current Literature.

Saving Street Car Patrons.
The pay-as-you-enter cars possess other advantages besides that of securing fares which are ordinarily lost to the company. It is reported that the introduction of this type on the Chicago City Railway had reduced the number of fatal accidents by over sixteen per cent. It has also reduced the number of less serious accidents due to getting on or off the car.—Scientific American.

Perfectly Honest.
"I hadn't been talking with him three minutes before he called me an ass. What sort of a person is he?"
"Well, I never knew him to tell a lie."—Tit-Bits.