Immortality

"If a man die, shall he live again?—Job. xiv. 14.

Every natural, well poised person holds life to be the dearest of all treasures. When a philosopher like Schopenhauer argues against the good of life we set him down as a pessimist. Only the morbid pessimist, misanthrope, the unhealthy mind lightly values life. Wrote John Stuart Mill: "The soul yearns for life." And said Dr. Samuel Johnson: "No wise man will be contented to die if he thinks he is to fall into annihilation." But with this passion for life how fearful becomes the shadow of death which palls the race of men! Just when the powers are ripest the thinker, the genius, the empire builder must drop his plans and retire from the stage of life. Shall we weep for, then, that from of old, wise men should have asked Job's great question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" And that great pagan thinkers sought by natural proofs to construct a doctrine of immortality? The strongest of all the proofs, was the historical one—that drawn from universal belief. The Egyptians, in the tabled Nile the phoenix, rising from its own ashes; the Homeric poems, with Acheron and the realm of shades; the Druidic doctrine of metempsychosis, the transmigration of souls, and the hymns of the Rig-Vedas, the earliest oldest book in the world, the world, all teach an existence beyond the grave. And are not such universal beliefs reflections of eternal truths? And do they not point to objective realities, just as the eye prophesies light to be seen and the bird's wing points to a medium fitted for flight? Hence wrote Victor Hugo: "My thirst for the infinite proves to me my being is infinite, Winter is on my silver head, but eternal spring is in my heart."

The philosophical argument, based upon the indestructibility of any simple entity, has also been resorted to. On this ground Plato held that "the soul was imperishable and immortal." And Kant, the intellectual giant of modern times, deduced the same result from the voice of conscience, which he called the "Practical Reason." The ethical argument, drawn from the incompleteness and inequality and injustice of this stage of being, has also been adduced.

And even science is not without its proof. Prof Professor Tait, in his "Treatise on the Unseen Universe," shows that the modern discovery of the conservation of force—that no particle of force amid all changes is ever lost, indicates the indiscoluble nature of the soul. So the indestructibility of matter and the mystery of sleep, "twin sister of death," bring further corroborative proofs.

Such are the reasonings by which men in all ages have sought to frame a theory of immortality with which to break the lance of the grim tyrant death. Addison has thus strongly and beautifully voiced this sentiment:

It must be so: Plato, thou reasonest well;
Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire,
This longing after immortality?
Or whence this secret dread and inward horror
Of falling into naught? Why shrinks the soul
Back on herself and startles at destruction?
'Tis the divinity stirs within us;
'Tis heaven itself that points out an hereafter
And intimates eternity to man.

Yet what are theories, speculations and philosophies when confronted with the remorseless logic of facts? Eli, with all Israel's sympathies, cries of inconsolable lament and subdued despair characterizes the writings of the sacred writer, "Happier never to have been born," sings Sophocles, "than to soon to pass through the hapless gates of Hades." And Haeckel's "Sleep of the Soul," Huxley's "Endless Sleep" and Hume's "Leap Into the Dark" show the same doubt and scepticism among modern secular philosophers.

And this, then, is the uniqueness of the Easter Message of glory. It meets fact with fact. It proclaims with a trumpet that rends the unbelieving ear, "Christ has risen! The Son of God has burst the bars of the grave! The king of terrors is disarmed! Jesus hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light!" This all men feel to be the most blessed and significant fact of history. It is the cornerstone of Christianity. Will any Bonan admit that this Easter message has revolutionized the world. Naturally and rightfully, thinking men everywhere rose up and questioned its credibility. But Christ would have risen in vain had not the resurrection been satisfactorily attested. And so the Church formulated the evidence, and little by little the world came to accept the Easter miracle as an indisputable historical fact. And then the nightmare of ages lifted. The Sun of Immortality rose to the zenith. A great inspiration uplifted humanity. The floodgates of history were reversed. Religion was transfused with hope and gladness. Literature took on another moods. Art bloomed with lovelier forms. Cemeteries lost their horror and became consecrated gardens where the loved pilgrims slept the "sleep beautiful," to be wakened by the joyful trumpet of endless life. The race had undergone a new creation.

The resurrection of Jesus is thus a demonstration of immortality. And of our personal immortality. We are He was made man for us, so we trimpth over death in Him, our representative. And so is it a demonstration of the resurrection, immortality and Resurrection—were ever such twin truths heralded as these? And not without a divine inspiration has the blessed Eastertide been fixed by the Church at the season when the earth shakes off winter's sleep; when the birds come back and the flowers begin to bloom; when every seed that falls into the ground and dies, and rises again with a new body, is a witness to us of the resurrection of Christ, and a witness to us that some day life shall conquer death, light conquer darkness and joy conquer grief in that realm of immortal life where "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away" (Rev. xxi., 4).

Fortified, then, with this assuring Easter faith, let us, when our summons comes to quit these mortal shores, make response with the true pagan and the Christian poet Tennyson:

Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.
For though from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

An Easter Novelty.

A novelty in ornaments for the coming Easter is a small porcelain tile with an appropriate verse of a poem or a quotation from Scripture, done in fancy lettering and bordered with flowers. A beautiful tile of this kind, had designed by a local artist, shows the first verse of an Easter hymn done in gilt lettering, and rising up between the letters sleeper grass stems which carry at the top, as a kind of Easter bonnet, blown iris flowers.—Brooklyn Eagle.

ATTACKS CANAL THROUGH COURTS

Chicago Attorney Seeks to Restrain Payment to the Panama Company.

HOLDS SPOONER ACT IS VOID

Asks Injunction Against the Secretary of the Treasury on the Ground That No Appropriation Was Made to Acquire Title to Strip.

Washington dispatch: A Chicago lawyer, Warren B. Wilson, acting in his own behalf, has filed a bill in equity in the supreme court of the District of Columbia, asking an injunction to restrain the secretary of the treasury from paying the republic of Panama and the Panama Canal company from receiving any money under the Spooner canal act.

Declares Act Void.

He bases the action upon the grounds that the act is void, and that no appropriation has been made for acquiring the title to the canal or the zone, and that, therefore, it is only does be construe the Spooner act unconstitutional, but he also claims that the treaty with the republic of Panama is wholly unconstitutional and invalid. Mr. Wilson's bill sets up that, unless the Spooner act be valid and constitutional, its terms and conditions have not been complied with and the injunctive relief he prayed for which he seeks by injunction to prevent.

Represents Himself.

He said that in bringing the proceedings he represented no person or persons whatsoever, except himself, although he does not expect people to believe that statement. He said that the question appealed to him personally, and that he proposed to fight the case alone to the United States supreme court.

FINDS SENATOR BURTON GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS

Verdict Against Solon From Kansas Renders Him Liable to Heavy Fine and Imprisonment.

St. Louis, dispatch: United States Senator Joseph Ralph Burton of Kansas was found guilty of using his influence to preserve to the Ritalic Stock and Securities company the right to use the mails. A verdict of guilty was rendered on each of the three counts, and on any one of the counts the senator may receive a penitentiary sentence of two years or a fine of $10,000. If the jury finding is upheld Senator Burton will be impeached in the senate and forever prohibited from holding any public office of trust. The jury that returned the verdict was out forty-one hours. Eleven of the jurors had voted for conviction, but were hung by the twelfth man.

Anticipating a disagreement, Judge Adams instructed the jurors before him and quoted from opinions of the Missouri supreme course to show that in jury decisions a majority might count. Within a short time the men had agreed on one count. They were sent back again to consider the other two, and returned immediately with an agreement.

Senator Burton and his counsel were in court, but showed no emotion at the outcome of the case. A motion for a new trial was at once placed before the court and will be heard later. The senator was released on his recognizance pending the arguments on the new hearing.

Lawyers are divided upon the question of what the conviction implies. Burton's seat in the senate vacant or whether the senate should wait for the appeal to be decided by the Church at the session when the earth shakes off winter's sleep; when the birds come back and the flowers begin to bloom; when every seed that falls into the ground and dies, and rises again with a new body, is a witness to us of the resurrection of Christ, and a witness to us that some day life shall conquer death, light conquer darkness and joy conquer grief in that realm of immortal life where "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away" (Rev. xxi., 4).

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"THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS."—RUBENS.

ILLINOIS NEWS

Choice items from all over the state, specially selected for our readers

NOTED CHARACTER DIES AT 85

Eyewitness to Famous Lovejoy Tragedy Passes Away at Greenville.

John Wesley Harned, Aged 85, Was an eyewitness of the Lovejoy tragedy at Alton, November 7, 1837, died at his country home west of Greenville. Mr. Harned was born in Red River county, Tex., January 26, 1819, and moved with his parents to Illinois in 1831. He "way-billed" Daniel Webster from Alton to Carlinville, when Webster was making his canvass for the nomination for President. In 1839 he moved to Bond county and had resided there continuously since. In 1840 he cast his first vote for Harrison at Pocahontas, this county, and for fifty consecutive years, he voted the Republican ticket at that place, never missing an election, national state or county. Mr. Harned has many times given a graphic account of the killing of Elijah P. Lovejoy at Alton, of which he was an eyewitness. His father, Capt. William Harned, was the owner of the old Mansion house, still standing at Alton. He was one of the founders of Lovejoy and was standing by his side when he fell.

DEATH OF NOTED TELEGRAPHER

Operator Had Worked His Way From Atlantic to Pacific.

Henry A. Bogardus, probably the most widely known telegraph operator in America, died in South Side sanitarium of Chicago. His death was due to acute alcoholism. Bogardus had a unique history. He was born in Rochester, N. Y., about 60 years ago, and on the death of his wife became an inveterate traveler. Before the civil war he has crossed the country from coast to coast, and from the City of Mexico to Manitoba over a hundred times, without paying a cent of fare. "Old" Bogy, as he was familiarly known to the fraternity of the jury, had worked in every telegraph office of importance in the United States, Canada and Mexico, but seldom stayed for more than a week or ten days at a time.

To Decide on Cadet.

County Superintendent Albert E. Hinners of Virginia has been selected by Congressman Henry Rainey as one of a high school superintendents to form a 20th district to act as member of the examining board for appointment of a cadet to the naval academy. Other polls, Md. The other members of the board are: A. L. Jones of Green county and M. Bollan of Mason county.

Sand Blocks Intake Pipes.

The high water in Crooked creek caused sand to accumulate over the intake pipes at the Centralia pumping station and the water supply was shut off for twelve hours.

Glassblower is Burned.

William Belser, a glassblower of Alton, was severely burned by the explosion of gas in a furnace he was poking in the building of the Belser brothers.

Revival at Centralia.

Rev. Brownson, the new pastor of the Baptist church at Centralia, has commenced a series of revival meetings to continue two weeks.

Seizes Property for Taxes.

Township Collector Smith of Alton has been compelled to resort to seizing personal property for failure to pay personal taxes.

Falls Under Car Wheels.

Curtis Sullivan, aged 23, was killed by an Alton train near Woodson. He was from the platform beneath the wheels.

Runaway Team Injures Boy.

A 5-year-old son of Andrew Weise of East Midson was run over by a runaway team. His back was injured.

Fifteen-Year-Old Girl Elopes.

Lucile Goar, the 15-year-old daughter of Robert Goar of Mattoon, has eloped with Clinton Luker, an insurance agent.

Big Fire in Toledo.

Fire at Toledo destroyed the Green building and State bank building. Loss, $20,000; insurance on both

Cager is Crushed.

Christ Hirzbrink, cager in the Madison mine at Edwardsville, got his head crushed between coal cars.

Train Kills Young Man.

Earl H. Skaggs of Springfield, 20 years old, was killed by a Chicago and Alton freight train.

Horsethieves Want More Pay.

The union horsehoers of Quincy are considering a proposition to advance prices.

Farmers Are Exempt.

The office in Decatur of Clarence Steinberger of Auburn bank bankruptcy has failed. Judge Humphrey holding that the defendant is the action is a farmer and therefore could not be forced into involuntary bankruptcy.

Chicken Thieves Are Busy.

The farmers in the Grand Prairie neighborhood, south of Decatur, are complaining of a systematic gang of chicken thieves. Over 500 chickens have disappeared from one neighborhood.

ARMY RECRUIT IS MADE HAPPY

Lad Gets on Wrong Train, but Judge Aids Him to Reach Destination.

Rod Simmons of Bowling Green, Ky., was made happy by Judge J. M. Beach of East St. Louis, who presented to him a pass home. The young man enlisted in the United States army from his home town, and was ordered to report at Jefferson Barracks. He requested information at Union Station concerning the iron Mountain train, Simmons was put on the wrong line, which is a part of the iron Mountain system, and was carried back to East St. Louis. The lad was penniless, and fearing that the army officials would send out a description of him and ask for his arrest, he requested the East St. Louis police to inform the commanding officer that he would arrive at the barracks as soon as he could walk there. Tears streamed down the boy's face as he told his story to Chief Purdy. Judge Beach, on hearing Simmons' story, presented 25 cents to him, and told him to take the street car for his destination. The boy fell upon his knees and kissed the hand of his benefactor.

BRINGS UNUSUAL DAMAGE SUIT

Wife Charges Saloonkeepers With Responsibility of Husband's Crime.

Judge F. M. Humphrey of Carbondale has entered suit in Perry county against six saloonkeepers of Pinckneyville and Du Bois for $5,000 damages. The case is brought in behalf of Mrs. John Corgan and her two children, owing to the imprisonment of her husband, John Corgan, in the Chester penitentiary for fourteen years for manslaughter. Mrs. Corgan alleges that the selling of liquor to her husband has deprived her and her children of their visible means of support and therefore asks damages. Corgan killed Charles Smith while in a drunken frenzy in Pinckneyville in December, 1902.

National Guard Orders.

Adjt. Gen. Scott has issued an order to accept the resignation of Dr. George N. Kreider of Springfield as major and surgeon of the 5th infantry, Illinois national guard.

The resignation of Bert J. Steer as first lieutenant of company H, 5th infantry, Sterling, is accepted.

The examining board of the 5th infantry is ordered to meet at Quincy, April 13, to examine Joseph Lingenfelter for a commission as second lieutenant of company M, 5th infantry, Canton. Also, to examine William E. Culbertson as captain of company K, 5th infantry, Delavan.

Permission was given to company C, C. 3d infantry, Ottawa, Capt. S. R. Sutherland commanding, to attend the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis at their own expense.

To Mark Historical Spots.

Edwin E. Sparks of Chicago, chairman of Illinois state historical society committee, has recommended to Alton people that they erect suitable marks on historic spots in Alton and vicinity. Mr. Sparks has urged the citizens to put up stones on the site of the Lewis and Clark camp east of Alton where the explorers of the Western country spent the winter before starting upon their journey to the Pacific coast. Other historical spots which he thinks should be marked are the northeast corner of the Hall building, where one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates took place, and the site of the printing office of Elijah P. Lovejoy on Second street.

Captures Confidence Man.

Argalus Stubbs, chief of police of Edwardsville, made a rapid catch of an alleged confidence man. Mrs. C. N. Travous of West St. Louis street found that one of her boarders, Mr. Weiss, had been cheated out of $45 by the old box game. She telephoned the chief a description of the man and the chief arrested him as he was waiting for a street car. Chief Stubbs also arrested a confederate, an old man, but the two showed fight, and while subduing the younger, the old man got away. The younger gave his name as Joseph Madison, and said he traveled for a Cincinnati whisky house. He was sent to jail in default of $500 bonds.

Gets Half of Pension.

A decision has been given by the pension commissioner that Mrs. Matilda Golibour of Alton is entitled to half her husband's pension. Golibour has asked for a rehearing of the case. Golibour died on November of 1902 a month and his wife charges that he fails to support her.

Decatur Man is Bankrupt.

Having filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the federal court at Springfield. His liabilities are $481; assets, $400.

Interurban Station.

The old Lincoln theatre west of Decatur will be converted into a substation for the McKinley interurban electric railway. The new station and power plant will be at Riverton, and Decatur will be a distributing point for power. Ample room will be afforded for storage of cars.

Stone and Plaster Company.

George Ferce, John H. Orne, B. F. Stanley and W. H. Fisher have organized the Decatur hydraulic stone and hard plaster company.

PARENTS FIGHT FOR CHILDREN

Courts Are Appealed to in Order to Settle Question of Possession.

A legal contest will probably be instituted in the courts between Mr. and Mrs. Austin Eskew for possession of their children. The father petitioned the county court to declare the mother unfit to have possession of one of the children. Mrs. Eskew says that she abducted her boy on the advice of an attorney, and that she never gave up her right of caring for her children. The husband charges that his wife deserted her family at Hannibal three years ago, and that he put the children in an orphanage. The boy cried when separated from his mother in court. Police Magistrate Rose decided that Mrs. Eskew must leave the child in the custody of the police matron until the county court passes upon her claim.

TAKE SAVINGS OF AGED WOMAN

Burglars Get $200 From Boarding-House Keeper at East St. Louis.

Burglars entered the boarding-house of Mrs. Johanna Bensen, at East St. Louis and stole a wallet containing $200 from under Mrs. Bensen's pillow without awakening her. Mrs. Bensen is 70 years of age, and the money represented her savings for many years. The burglars climbed through a transom and also ransacked the rooms of other lodgers of the house. During the night of the robbery houses were entered, but nothing of consequence was stolen.

Burglar Frightens Woman.

When Mrs. Jim Bergen of East St. Louis was awakened by a strange noise, she found herself confronted by a burglar, who pointed a revolver at her head and commanded her to keep quiet. The woman became frightened and fell in a faint. The burglar then hurriedly left the room, but in doing so made so much noise that the entire household was aroused. Mrs. Bergen remained unconscious for several minutes.

Burglar Ransacks Home.

Charles Sunderland, a highway commissioner of Alton township, seems to be one of Alton's most favored allies of the stock. His ancestors had been born. Although an armless man, Sunderland makes a living for himself and his big family of twenty-one. He would be a credit to many a person with two good arms. When he became a candidate for highway commissioner he was almost unanimously elected.

Heavy Rains Flood Houses.

The heavy rains have caused a number of small houses near the old Bonaparte lake in the southeastern portion of East St. Louis to become flooded. John Edwards, an occupant of one of the houses, petitioned the city authorities to compel his landlord to make improvements in the water of the lake. Thomas Johns was compelled to remove to a place where his family would be secure.

New Confidence Game.

A new confidence game is being worked in southern Illinois. The plan is to get the unsuspecting farmer interested in the dairy business. The stranger induces the farmer to sign a contract for milk to be furnished during the St. Louis World's Fair, offering flattering inducements. Later the contracts materialize in the form of a note of $200 or more.

Orders Mine Closed.

The state mine inspector has ordered the mine of the Williamsville Coal company at Williamsville closed pending repairs. It considered would will take about three months to get the mine in shape. About 160 men are thrown out of employment. The loss to the company is about $50 per day.

Switchmen Injured.

William McCorrigan of East St. Louis was probably fatally injured in the yards of the Wabash Railway at Brooklyn. Mr. Corrigan is a switchman and was engaged in signaling his train he was struck on the head by the arm of a passing freight car which had been left open.

To Speak for Good Roads.

Gov. Yates has consented to deliver the address of welcome at the meeting of the state good road convention in Springfield on May 2 and 3. Other speakers will be Senator A. C. Latimer, Hon. Nelson Morris, Hon. Martin Dodge, Washington; Hon. Adlai Stevenson, Bloomington.

Throws Oil on Fire.

Emma Reupert, employed in an Edwardsville house, has been wearing a mark, her face having been burned by an explosion of coal oil which she threw on the kitchen fire.

Teacher is Ill.

Miss Mae Myers, a teacher in the Lockhaven school, is confined to her home in Alton by nervous shock as the result of a narrow escape from being run down by an engine as she stepped from a train at that place.

Township High School Election.

In response to a petition, the township school trustees of Mount Vernon have called an election, to be held at the township high school, April 4, for the purpose of voting on the township high school proposition.

Immortality

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