

We travel the dusty road till the light of the day is dim  
And sunset shows us spires away on the world's rim.

We travel from dawn to dusk, till the day is past and by,  
Seeking the Holy City beyond the rim of the sky.

Friends and loves we have none, nor wealth nor blest abode,  
But the hope, the burning hope, and the road, the lonely road.  
—John Masefield, in the London Speaker.

#### THE FIRST FENCER OF LAND.

For The Public.

Apropos of Mr. George F. Baer's utterance, that Cain was the first striker, I remember an ancient Jewish legend according to which Cain was the first one who built a fence, and who claimed the land within the fence as his. He thus is the prototype of the landlord. And landlordism is still killing men.

The Jews of old seem to have had a pretty keen insight into the relationship existing between man and land.

J. L. STERN.

#### SHE HAD AMBITION.

Some people think that woman is "emancipated;" but it may be that the world has had only a hint of what is to be expected when the fair sex is really set free.

Some children were recently overheard discussing that interesting matter of "what we'll do when we get big." One, a very small boy from a Western village, outlined his dream of future power by stating that he should be a milkman, ride round in a wagon and ring a bell for folks to come out for their milk.

The second, a boy a little older, explained how he wanted to be the man to ride on the freight cars and "make the round things go like this"—illustrating with his hands the brakeman's action.

The third, also a boy, still older than the others—laughing a little at their childish notions—stated that he could not decide whether to be a minister or a grocer. In the place where they were all spending the summer the grocer has candy to sell, and a young clergyman was the object of much feminine devotion.

The fourth child, a girl of eleven, was seen to smile enigmatically. She did not care to tell what she would do, she said.

"Aw, *yur!*" contemptuously cried he for whom the ministry and confectionery had equal attraction. "*Yur*

want to get married!" he said, with the traditional blindness of his sex.

When the boys with these ignoble aims had run off to play ball, the girl's ambition came out, confided to her favorite aunt.

"I wouldn't tell before *them*," she said, scornfully. "They couldn't understand. But, aunty, I want to be a justice of the Supreme Court, and"—her voice became solemn—"beyond human control."—Youth's Companion.

#### THE CLASS IN STATESMANSHIP.

"Now, Johnny, what is a Legislature?"

"Please, mum, but it is a body of men surrounded by the gas and other trusts, and individual members are sometimes offered as high as \$2,000 for their votes."

"For what purpose does a Legislature assemble?"

"To make laws with holes in 'em and give taxpayers an idea that there is something doing."

"Of what does a Legislature consist?"

"Of a Senate, a House, a lobby, a dozen lawyers, about \$50,000 in cash and lots of gab."

"What is Congress?"

"A larger body of men selected by the railroads and trusts and surrounded by more temptations than a Legislature."

"How is it formed?"

"Of a Senate, a House, unlimited boodle and more or less prerogatives."

"What is a prerogative?"

"Stealing Government land, whacking up with rings, selling inside information to speculators and heading off committees appointed to investigate the Beef Trust and the railroad."

"Correct, Johnny. You look pale and tired and you may now take your seat."—Town Talk, of Newark, N. J.

#### STRAIGHT THINKING.

By Herbert S. Bigelow, Pastor Vine Street Congregational Church, Cincinnati, delivered Jan. 14, 1906.

If a man's thought is at sixes and sevens, his life is apt to be full of inconsistencies. A false idea is next door to an immoral act. Straight thinking is essential to right living.

From the galleries of the city council chamber I heard a councilman advocate the passage of the gas franchise. He began by declaring that he was a friend of the workingman. He favored giving the franchise to the gas company because the directors of the company were our richest citizens. They gave us our skyscrapers, they gave

employment to our laborers; and, therefore, as a favor to our workingmen, the councilman proposed to give the franchise to their employers. To be sure, the franchise sent the stock of the gas company up \$1,000,000, but the interests of labor have to be looked after, no matter what crumbs fall to the respectable business grafters of the town.

While the councilman was making his speech, some one near wondered how much the gas company had to pay him for it. But another volunteered the opinion that the councilman was honest and well-meaning. "Well," said the first man, "suppose he is honest. Does that help any? Can you tell me of what earthly use is an honest, damn fool?"

In State legislatures and city councils, the crooks and the fools usually vote together. It matters little to the people whether the legislator is a smart thief or just a dupe.

Some people think as a calf walks; and if a man wabbles in his thought, he wabbles through life.

The man who rides home with you on the street car can tell you about the bill of goods he sold yesterday, about the show he saw last night, or the beefsteak he ate for dinner. But that is his depth. If you try to talk religion, politics, taxation, municipal ownership, referendum, you will find his mind confused, and hopelessly so, for he will think himself wise. The less he knows, the wiser he is.

If thoughts were things, the furniture of some men's minds would make a second-hand furniture store look like a Tiffany palace. What a lot of clasp-trap, rusty junk and frayed rags of thoughts men carry about in their minds, and set before you, without shame and without apology!

Here is a man with a defective heart valve. It does not kill him. But he is handicapped by it. He is short of breath. He has fainting spells. He must always guard against over-exertion. Because of that defect he gets less service out of the other organs of the body.

Now it is just as impossible to have a false idea in the mind without damage as it is to have a diseased heart without lowering the tone of the bodily health. And if the error pertains to so basic a thing as religion, if one has a false philosophy of life, the damage will be serious.

There is not a leper spot on the body politic which is not due to bad thinking. Isaiah declared that social distress was due primarily to man's ignorance, and his words are full of significance to-day:

"Therefore are my people gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge."

#### THE REFERENDUM IN OHIO.

The Ohio Legislature has now before it a proposed amendment to the Constitution for the Optional Referendum and the Direct Initiative. The advocates of this reform claim that the necessary three-fifths of the members of both houses are pledged to vote for it, and in that event it will certainly be adopted by the people of the State. The discussion by the voters of Ohio of the advantages of the Referendum system has been quite one-sided, for but few newspapers have declared directly against it, though those controlled by the Hanna and Foraker rings are damning it with faint praise, or urging that many obstacles are in the path of its fulfillment.

The independent newspapers of Ohio have given the subject great publicity, and the Cleveland Press, with over 128,000 circulation, has just published an article in large type by Col. Jephth Garrard, under the caption: "The Initiative and Referendum—What It Would Mean to Ohio," which will be of interest to the voters of other States. It is as follows:

"Initiative is the right to propose any measure to be enacted by the General Assembly; and if the same is not enacted by the General Assembly, to have same submitted to a vote of the electors of the State to be enacted or rejected at the polls.

"Referendum is the right to require that any law which the General Assembly may have enacted shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of the State before becoming a law.

"These rights, Initiative and Referendum, to be secured by petitions signed by the electors—the number of electors required to be a definite per cent. of the votes cast at the preceding State election.

"The amendment which is to be urged upon the Ohio legislature follows closely the Oregon amendment, which was adopted in 1902 by a vote of 52,024 to 5,668.

"In Ohio the advocates of this measure have been doing quiet but effective work, and claim that they have already received from the newly elected representatives more than enough pledges to give them a three-fifths majority in each house.

"What this measure is, and what it is expected to do for Ohio, may

best be told by describing the form and the practical effects of the Oregon amendment.

"It is not proposed that all the laws passed by the legislature shall be referred to the people. It is proposed merely that the people shall have the power, to be exercised at their discretion, of bringing to referendum vote any particular act of their representatives.

"This power is guaranteed by the Oregon constitution in this way. It is provided that no act of the legislature, except emergency measures, shall go into effect until 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature.

"If, during these 90 days, petitions are signed by five per cent. of the citizens of the State, demanding a popular vote upon any act or acts of the legislature, and if these petitions are filed with the Secretary of State, the legal effect of the petition is to hold such act or acts in abeyance until the next regular election, when they have to be submitted to a vote of the people.

"If any measure so referred to the people receives the support of the majority, it thereby becomes a law; if it fails of a majority, it is thereby repealed.

"Under the foregoing provision, most, if not all, laws passed by the legislature will go into effect after the expiration of 90 days from their enactment without a popular vote. Referendums will be infrequent.

"The chief aim of the Referendum consists, not in the frequency of its use, but in the fact that it may at any time be invoked. Experience shows this to be true."

GEORGE H. SHIBLEY.

#### THE MATTER OF DRESS.

From the comments of the London Speaker on a correspondence that has been raging in the London Daily News upon the question, "For Whom Do Women Dress?"

There is nothing humiliating in dressing to please yourself, any more than in playing cricket to please yourself. A painter paints, a poet makes verses to please himself. At least, if they do so for any other reason they waste their time. In fact, whatever we do well we do to please ourselves; and our object in life should not be to do everything against the grain, but to take pleasure in things worth doing.

There seems, however, to be a belief among men . . . that it is not worth while to dress well. They have

given up the business as a bad job. They are content to be eyesores, and make a virtue of their ugliness.

Yet men in other ages, and men, too, who did great things, have spent some of their abounding energy upon their clothes. The young Elizabethan conquered worlds and made great verses, arrayed like Solomon in all his glory; and the Spartans combed their long hair at Thermopylae. Are our affairs more important than theirs, or do we manage them better, that we have no time to adorn ourselves? Is it not rather that we are more oppressed by the burden of life than they were, and that we can no longer sustain it with an air? It is a common error for the man of a poor and starved nature to reproach the man of a rich and abounding temperament with frivolity. It is one of the mean consolations of life that pleasure always seems foolish to us when we lack the energy to share it; and that, no doubt, is the reason why men are angry with women who still have enough joy of life to take a pleasure in their clothes. . . .

Dress ought to be an expression of the joy of life, and not of any kind of sense of duty whatsoever. But it is not for the sex which includes bishops and soldiers to reproach women who dress from a sense of duty with the inevitable result. Men are nearly all figures of fun, and if they do not laugh at each other in the street, it is only because they cannot laugh at the same joke a thousand times a day.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON ON THE MUNICIPAL CONTROL OF VICE.

A REPLY BY TOM L. JOHNSON, MAYOR OF CLEVELAND, TO A COMMUNICATION FROM A COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERS' UNION OF CLEVELAND.

Rev. Wilbur C. Mickey and Associates, Committee of the Ministers' Union of Cleveland, O.

Gentlemen: I regret that my written reply to the representations made to me by you in conference has been so long delayed, but the pressure of other matters has until now prevented me from giving to the subject that deliberate consideration which it requires.

The problem presented is most difficult, but I am satisfied that you and the city administration have a common aim in view. We both most earnestly desire to make Cleveland a good place to live in, to promote the happiness of our people, and to surround them with such freedom from temptation