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The Courting of Patronage

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Although somewhat expected, the death of Mr. John Lowe, one of our last year's Middlers, came as a shock to his classmates and friends. Mr. Lowe became ill during the early part of the second semester but refused to give up his studies until his illness had made fatal progress. He possessed intellectual ability to a marked degree and held the esteem and friendship of all who knew him. We mourn his loss and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved relatives.



The Courting of Patronage

In all walks of life, there are to be found certain individuals who are by general consent, accorded precedence in all matters. They declare the styles, become the models of propriety in social affairs, and are the cynosures of a little coterie of dependents which surrounds them at all times. Too often these persons are unworthy of their following, and maintain the ascendancy only so long as another, greater and more worthy does not enter their kingdom. It is not their doing, however, that they are elevated to the position of "Dictator;" the little body of attaches takes care of that.

The fact that every person and everything is dependent upon some other person or thing by nature, does not mean that any one is to lose himself in another and become a sterile and inane satellite. Yet, there are those

who imitate the walk and manner and adopt the views of the more lordly, without attempt to cultivate the powers which they themselves possess and overlook. The appropriation of these characteristics makes them no more like the originals, than the imitators of celebrated "stars" become like the performers themselves. Instead, it converts them into mere hangers-on of society, who cannot act without the suggestions of others.

These unfortunates form a large class through our country, and are easy prey for the "Golden brick" schemes of the sharper, the fair promises of the politician, and the glittering utterance of the demagogue. Here, the half-enlightened and ingratiating mountebank establishes himself and feeds upon their follies. The moment an individual of doubtful talent catches an inspiration, he calls a convention, gives it to the world, and is proclaimed a hero. If his theory deals with religion, he sets up a new holy order, becomes a worthy High Priest and dies rich; if he is inclined to handle huge sums of money, he opens a bank and "misplaces" most of it before the institution falls to pieces. At any rate, he ceases hard work peremptorily, and proceeds to enjoy the luxuries which the "*vulgus populi*" provide with eagerness.

And why is all this self-effacement borne? Simply to be called a "good fellow", to be slapped

on the back and referred to as "my worthy friend and comrade", and to receive an invitation to the annual ball or dinner party given by the "Dictator", and to be seen frequently in his company, on his estate, and recognized as a "friend of the family," and to receive cheap presents bearing highly engraved cards. These gewgaws delight the heart of men, and is what they barter away their self-esteem and manhood.

Self-respecting, intelligent, and honorable men are thinking for themselves to-day as never before, and he who delivers himself up to the guidance of others, without the exercise of his own brains, descends to mediocrity and becomes a cheap second or third edition of his sovereign.

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Matters of Spelling

1. In monosyllables, and words accented on the last syllable ending in a single consonant, preceded by a single vowel, the final consonant is doubled before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

Bid—bidden. Drop—dropped. Equip—equipped.

2. Words ending in *c*, add *k* before a suffix beginning with *i* or *y*.

Picnic—picnicked. Shellac—shellacked.

3. Words ending in *ieve*, and *eive*. If *c* precedes then *e* follows, receive, perceive. If *l* precedes then *i* follows, believe, relieve.

—C.A.M.

A Ghost Story

There was a house out west that was said to be haunted. No one could live in this house with contentment. Every night about nine o'clock a peculiar noise was heard in the attic. Knowing that a cheerful home is a precious jewel, the owner offered a reward to any man who would stay all night in this house and find out what it was that disturbed every one that tried to live there. The twenty-fourth infantry was stationed near by and one of the soldiers volunteered to occupy the house. About eight o'clock the soldier went to the house, lighted a lamp, laid his revolver on the table and sat down to wait for the ghost to appear. So when everything was still, this noise began. It sounded like a miser counting his gold. Soon it started down the steps. When part way down it fell and rolled to the bottom of the steps. The soldier waited a few moments to see if it would move, then he walked to the steps and to his surprise there lay a little monkey with a chain around his leg. Evidently some one had been trying to tame it and fortunately for him he had broken the chain and sought safety in this house as a prisoner fleeing from jail. The soldier picked the animal up and carried it to the owner of the house and told him it was the ghost that for a long time had frightened so many people.