

ARE YOU USING MACWELL'S "PRIDE OF FULTON" FLOUR?

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

We will publish in this column the views of citizens upon public topics, reserving the right to eliminate anything that reflects personally. The Times does not necessarily endorse these communications.—Ed.

USE AND ABUSE OF NOVEL READING

Editor Fulton Times: The novel is a modern product. The art of story telling is as ancient as the history of man is recorded, but it remained for recent decades to fully develop this as a medium of truth. It began with the same purpose as the story of ancient times, to interest and amuse, but of late we have found that our serious problems are best brought to the attention of men by a picture presentation such as the novel gives. In no age has the practice of story telling been as prevalent as in this. As in the case of all uses of our human faculties there is at once a bane and a blessing in the use of novels. Those who read sensational literature become novel-sodden.

While most of it is not vicious it is insane, and it fills the mind with trash. Those who read this sort of stuff may never become vicious, but they never amount to much. Not only does the novel habit deaden the intellect, but it gives false views to life. Those who revel in the sensational, lose the power of sensation, so they lose sensitiveness to suffering in the actual world by indulging in sympathy in the unreal world of the story. Dickens has given us a picture of this in Miss Jelly, who wasted all of her sympathy on the sufferings of distant people and neglected her own household.

Novels giving a false view of life are bad for all, and fortunately they are, most of them, short lived. They pour from the press to enrich the publishers, but they impoverish the minds of their readers, they stultify the mind's powers and read by the very young and ignorant.

Then follows what are called the problem novels. A critic once said that novels of these two types were

written by women for women. In as far as generalizations can be correct this is true, but they are also written somewhat by men for men. The reason for the ill effect of so many modern novels is the view of life the author takes. The real artists whose work lives forever, such as George Eliot, Dickens, Thackeray, Stockton, Hawthorne, see life as it really is, and have the gift of picture making, whereby the reader sees it as they saw it. But the sensational novel gives a distorted view of life. It presents the abnormal. Either the author sees life that way or is straining for effect. He seems to feel that normal themes are exhausted and that he must seek out the abnormal. I feel that much of the social evils of our day may be traced to the problem novel. The modern novel, picturing the neurotic side of life, ignoring the normal, leaves that picture with a woman who begins to analyze her case in the light of what she reads; her conclusions are false and she follows them out.

While I most earnestly disapprove of novels of one class, I honestly approve of the other. I believe in novel reading and think all people should read them, because of the power of novels to carry their message to men. Novels of the right sort create a normal appetite. Men frequently disdain novels, but by so doing they make a great mistake. Who could, by merely reading history, ever come to understand the period of Savonarola in Florence as George Eliot gives it to us in "Romola?" For more than three years she studied the history of this period in Florence, and then she wrote this book which is not a dead history, but a living picture of life. Then again, look at the novel's power to move men to reform because it can picture conditions. All through history we see this. In England it was the ballads of Pius the Plowman that roused the people to demand a charter. In our country, Uncle Tom's Cabin, a picture of what slavery might be, stirred the nation as orations and sermons had not. It was a picture and men saw in its living characters the evils of slavery depicted.

I would believe in the novel for all men and women, however, if it only meant one thing, and that is the relief

and change that it brings when one is tired of his world and affairs seem somehow wholly wrong. He can step out of that world into one quite different. He can look along his shelves where the worlds pictured by the great masters stand and choose the time and place and scene where he will go to forget, and after a sojourn there come back rested and refreshed. Perhaps the greatest benefit the novel confers is that of the friends it gives us. The power to people of the world with real characters is indeed a wonderful gift. For instance there is our old friend, Don Quixote. When we are young we laugh at his foibles, but when we get older we find tears in our eyes over this wonderful picture of the weaknesses of our humanity. In this way our lives become filled with these characters from 'out the pages of the real pictures of life drawn by the master novelists.

There could never be too many Shakespeares. He makes his characters so true to life that they are not he speak.

What we need in fiction is a character so normal that we can be helped by his sanity and strength. The man who reads too many books is like the man who meets too many men. He never really knows anyone. One should choose only a few good books and renew acquaintance with them from time to time.

I look forward to the day when a compelling cause to a better social judgment will be presented in story form. A plea for a proper consideration of the novel is only a plea for all forms of art for in each is there a use and an abuse. May we for our own good make companions of the best of all forms of such expression that we may talk with kings a while and perchance become as they. At the very least we shall nourish our minds and give peace to our hearts.

WILSON BACKUS.

ADD USE AND ABUSE

Home-Made Mince-meat  
LaPorte's Grocery

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

State of New York, Office of the State Commission of Highways, Albany, N. Y.—Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 30, Laws of 1909, as amended by Chapter 646, Laws of 1911, and Chapter 80, Laws of 1913, sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned at their office, No. 55 Lancaster street, Albany, N. Y., at one o'clock p. m., on the 19th day of February, 1917, for the improvement of the following highway:

Road No.	Name of Road	Approx. Length
5638	Parish-Camden, Part 2	5.63

Maps, plans, specifications and estimates may be seen and proposal forms obtained at the office of the Commission in Albany, N. Y., and also at the office of Division Engineer, William M. Achesson, 433 S. Salina street, Syracuse N. Y.

The special attention of bidders is called to "General Information for Bidders in the itemized proposal, specifications and contract agreement.

Proposals for each road or contract must be presented in a separate sealed envelope, endorsed on the outside with the name and number of the road or contract for which the proposal is made. Each proposal must be accompanied by cash or a certified check payable to the order of the State Commission of Highways for an amount equal to at least five per cent. of the amount of the proposal which such cash or check accompanies.

This cash or check will be held by the Commission until the contract and bond are duly executed.

The successful bidder will be required to give a performance bond for fifty per cent. of the contract, and a maintenance bond covering the wearing surface of all roads, except waterbound macadam and cement concrete pavements for twenty per cent. of the contract price of the items which comprise the wearing surface, such bonds to be executed by a surety company to be approved by the Commission, or a bond secured by the deposit of collateral securities to be approved by the Commission.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids. EDWIN DUFFEY, I. J. MORRIS, Commissioner. Secretary Jan 30 Feb 3 6 9 13 16

SANTA NEARLY A DEAD DUCK.

Hunter Got Back His Christmas Wallet After Shooting Bird. San Mateo, Cal.—Santa Claus was nearly a dead duck the other day for Harry Baldwin, a dairyman. While shooting on the marshes near here he lost his wallet containing \$85. "There goes my Christmas," he remarked to Jack Pease, his companion. "I was going to buy presents for my family." Just then a flock of ducks flew over their heads. CRACK went Baldwin's gun, and one of the birds dropped. He waded out after his prize, and there he, side the dead duck lay his wallet.

FARMER KILLS WOLF.

Stock Raider First Seen in Western New York State in Seventy Years. Rochester, N. Y.—Edward Andrews, a farmer living near Maples, shot and killed a large gray timber wolf in the woods on his farm. The wolf is the first specimen of its kind seen in western New York in seventy years. It was more than seven feet long and weighed 160 pounds. During the last month the depredations of the animal had been enormous. Cattle and sheep were killed in Ontario, Yates and Steuben counties. Stock valued at \$400 was killed on the west side of Cananoticus lake.

\$170,000 FOR BROKEN VOW.

Awarded to a Pittsburgh Woman in Breach of Promise Suit. Pittsburgh.—Miss Nettie Richardson, aged forty, formerly a cashier in a Pittsburgh hotel, got a verdict of \$170,000 in her suit for \$50,000 for breach of promise against Henry Deniston, aged seventy-eight, a wealthy recluse of Swisshale, a suburb. Deniston, who belongs to an old Pittsburgh family and whose fortune is estimated at several million dollars, of which \$500,000 is in cash, lives in a little house on his farm almost within the city limits. He eschews a handsome residence on the place.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children  
In Use For Over 30 Years  
Always bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*  
Try Times Want Advertisements.

1 CENT

A Word Will Bring You Results in This Column

MISCELLANEOUS WANTS

WANTED  
POP CORN. F. G. Dolbear, 51 West First Street.

To Rent—Small grocery store with fixtures at 314 Seneca street; a first class place for meat and groceries; large show windows. Inquire P. H. Ward, Phone 4450. Itc.

To Rent—Furnished room with all improvements. Address K, Times office. xc

FARM FOR SALE—Or will exchange for city property 90 acres, one and one-half miles from railroad and milk station. Nine miles from Fulton. Price \$2,800. Good six room house and barn Address H. A. Sutton, R. F. D. 5, Fulton, N. Y. 6-3-20-10r

House to Rent—S. Waldhorn. 10-27-17

House to Rent. 312 Seneca street, 9 rooms; bath, gas, electricity. Inquire Times office. 10-24-17

For Sale—Folding bed in first class condition. Phone 2339. tix

Wanted—Roll top desk; must be good condition. Phone 45 or a dress Desk, care Times. xoc

Wanted—Old false teeth; don't matter if broken. I pay \$1.00 to \$2.00 per set. Mail to L. Mazer, 2007 S Fifth street, Philadelphia. Will send cash by return mail. 3-30-17

WANTED—Girls at 551 West Third street. Telephone 175. 4-1-2

WANTED. Flat or small house, centrally located with modern conveniences. Address "Flat," care Times, or phone 4. 3-

HAVE ROSY CHEEKS AND FEEL FRESH AS A DAISY—TRY THIS!

Says glass of hot water with phosphate before breakfast washes out poisons.

To see the thrice of healthy skin in your face, to see your skin clearer and clearer, to wake up a cool tongue, to see your tongue and throat feel your best, day in and day out, try inside-bathing every morning, one week. Before breakfast each day, drink glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it. It is harmless means of washing from stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels previous day's indigestible waste, sour bile and toxins; thus cleans, sweetens and purifying the alimentary canal before putting its food into the stomach. The action of hot water and limestone phosphate on empty stomach is wonderfully invigorating. It cleans out all the fermentations, gases and acids, gives one a splendid appetite for breakfast.

A quarter pound of limestone phosphate will cost very little at the store but is sufficient to demonstrate that just as soap and hot water cleanses, sweetens and freshens skin, so hot water and limestone phosphate act on the blood and internal organs. Those who are subject to constipation, bilious attacks, acid stomach, rheumatic twinges, also those whose skin is sallow and complexion pale, are assured that one week of inside-bathing will have them both looking and feeling better in every way.

A GREAT BIG CHANCE

To Buy Goods at Your Own Price  
Greatest Clearance Sale in the History of Fulton  
Goods Must be Sold in Ten Days at Cost or Below Cost

Ladies' and Gents' Clothing and Furnishings of All Kinds  
Suits, Waists, Coats, Gloves, Shirts, Caps, Etc., Etc.

LARGE STOCK OF Ladies, Mens and Childrens Shoes and Rubbers  
Don't Fail to Come and Look Over the Bargains  
Sale Starts Wednesday, January 31.

JOS. THOMAS & BRO.

THREE \$1.75 MONTHLY MAGAZINES \$1.75  
A NATIONAL (Semi-Monthly) FARM JOURNAL  
And Our Paper All One Year

GOOD READING is one of the necessities to a real home. With the happy combination shown below and now offered in connection with your subscription to this paper, the whole family can gather around the evening lamp and get the most valuable, entertaining and instructive reading obtainable for a year.

HERE THEY ARE

We urge you to send in your order at once while this offer is good. This offer is good for both NEW and RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS. Order today and tell your friends and neighbors before it is too late.

This offer is for rural and out of town subscribers ONLY and is not for subscribers who receive their paper by carrier in the city.

A Skin Like Velvet smooth, soft, and healthy. Use the completely fragrant cream of the heavy layer of skin and be completely satisfied. Your skin has never been so soft. ELGAYA CRÈME

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA