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The Saturday Evening Post is the oldest journal in America, having appeared regularly every week for the past 173 years, except for the short period when Philadelphia was in the hands of the British Army. The magazine was founded in 1728 and was edited and published by Benjamin Franklin, in whose day it was known as The Pennsylvania Gazette. In 1765 the publication passed into other hands, but its name continued until 1821 when it was changed to The Saturday Evening Post. The magazine was purchased in 1897 by The Curtis Publishing Company.

☛ If this is to be the mosquito's last season on earth it has certainly been a busy one.

☛ Corn may not be king this year, but those who have to buy it think it is a mighty good pretender.

☛ No doubt the Boers will feel bad over the fact that they are to be banished—if they ever find it out.

☛ Coal magnates can now look with good-natured pity on those of us who forgot to buy coal mines while they were going.

☛ Recently yellow journalism has turned pale. Let us hope the bleaching process will go on until it becomes white.

☛ A larger White House is needed, but the people take little interest in that. If they have a big President they are satisfied.

☛ When you come to take off the hats of those who are opposed to football you are quite apt to uncover a fine lot of bald heads.

☛ As spring approaches in Southern countries it may be necessary to call all South American revolutions off until after the crops can be put in.

☛ A special grand jury in New York City this autumn had thirty-five cases of homicide to investigate. In the meanwhile New York is saying a great deal about lawlessness in the South and West.

☛ France has a national debt of six billions of dollars, and is increasing it at the rate of a hundred millions a year. This is the world's record, and it strikes us as the most ridiculous case of financial optimism history has ever known.

☛ With Mr. Yerkes, a North American, digging the rapid-transit tunnels under London, and M. Santos-Dumont, a South American, flying in a machine above Paris, the Western Hemisphere seems to be showing the other half how to do things.

☛ Governor Crane, of Massachusetts, had a judge to appoint the other day, and the most of the candidates belonged to his party, but it happened that the best man recommended was a Democrat. He selected the Democrat. It does one good to run across a case like this, but perhaps we should remember that, with rare exceptions, American Governors have done what they could to keep party politics from the bench. With a good judiciary a free country is safe.

☛ Agassiz could not afford the time to make money, and science was richer in consequence. Modern laborers in the same field have better opportunities. There are big money prizes for great discoveries, and scientists compete for them instead of making their achievements known gratuitously through association meetings. This is the better way, even if it does detract from the interest and value of the scientific congresses, for when a man does a great thing he ought to have some of the reward in cash as well as full credit in fame.

☛ Giving full credit to the South's remarkable industrial development, the fact remains that its best work is in education. More is being done than most people suppose. The Peabody fund of \$3,500,000, in spite of the loss of \$1,380,000 in the repudiated bonds of Mississippi and Florida, has furnished within thirty-three years nearly three millions of dollars for educating teachers for the public schools. The million dollars given by John F. Slater in 1882 for educating the negroes has increased to \$1,500,000 and has done great and growing good. Of the scores of colleges and universities, Vanderbilt in Tennessee and Tulane in New Orleans have endowments of over a million dollars each; the University of Texas has \$2,600,000; Washington and Lee in Virginia has nearly a million, and others have from one to seven hundred thousand. In the various collegiate institutions there are about 30,000 students. Add to all these figures the 5,000,000 pupils enrolled in the public schools, and the showing becomes impressive. Here is not only the hope but the assurance of the South's progress and prosperity.

Culture and Success

MORE light on the question whether higher education is a hindrance to success in life is furnished by the latest edition of a biographical dictionary that includes practically everybody in America who is known outside of his own block. In this hospitable Hall of Fame are found the names of 11,551 persons, of whom 9760 furnished details about their education. Of these 4521 are graduates of American colleges and universities, 289 are graduates of West Point and Annapolis, 965 attended college without graduating, 366 were educated abroad, and 2059 are graduates of medical, scientific, theological and law schools. Thus 8200 out of 9760 persons, or 84 per cent. of the whole, have had some sort of higher education. In addition, 282 were privately educated, their training in many cases reaching collegiate grade, and 1249 were trained in academies, seminaries, normal schools and high schools. That leaves only 315 out of 9760, or 3 per cent., with no more than the common-school education which some gentlemen of note think all that is good for a business man.

The people with college, or even high-school, training constitute a very small percentage of the population of this country. Yet it appears that they furnish 97 per cent. of the men and women successful enough to have attracted any sort of public attention. Among the vast little-educated majority who furnish the other 3 per cent. there are doubtless nearly or quite as many persons of ability, proportionately, as among the small minority of higher training. If education were merely ineffective, not to say harmful, this great majority should swamp the minority in the lists of successful men. That its contribution to the total is scarcely perceptible looks like pretty conclusive evidence that higher education gives a man some advantages that he would not have without it.

Colleges are not primarily designed to teach a man to make money, but they teach him to measure his mental powers and make the most of them. When he turns his disciplined faculties in the direction of money-making he is more likely to succeed than if his mind were untrained. College men have learned to test all things and hold fast that which is good. They are not likely to be deceived by transparent swindles. They do not furnish many customers for gold bricks or green goods. They do not waste time in hunting perpetual motion. They do not patronize 520 per cent. "get-rich-quick" syndicates. In short, they have learned how to see things as they are, to avoid mirages, and to take advantage of genuine opportunities.

And of course there are other kinds of success infinitely higher than money-making. In attaining these an academic training is of incalculable advantage. Poets may be born, not made, but making has a great deal to do with other forms of intellectual distinction. Mr. Roosevelt might possibly have reached the Presidency if he had never gone to Harvard, but he would have had to get along without a good many of his other varied titles to fame.

Now come the melancholy mornings when many are called but few get up.

The Vice-Presidency

THEODORE ROOSEVELT is the fifth Vice-President to succeed to the Chief Magistracy by the death of the elected President. If he lives to complete his term the Presidency will have been administered by men attaining it through such substitution for nearly eighteen out of the 116 years of our constitutional history. In other words, there are fifteen

chances out of a hundred that in any given time the Government may be in the hands of a Vice-President.

In reality the chances are much greater. No President died in office before 1841. Of the sixty-four years from that time to 1905, Vice-Presidential administrations will have covered nearly eighteen, or over 27 per cent. The proportion will have been almost precisely the same for the forty years from 1865 to 1905, and will have been over 29 per cent. for the twenty-four years beginning with 1881.

That is to say, when we elect a Vice-President we ought to do so with an eye to the fact that there is at least one chance in four that we are electing a President.

Under the system in vogue in the early years of the Republic statesmen of Presidential grade were elected to the Vice-Presidency. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and George Clinton were all Vice-Presidents. About the time when it began to seem unnecessary to treat the Vice-Presidency seriously, and the office began to be treated as a consolation prize for small-calibered "favorite sons," the Presidents began to die in office, and the Vice-Presidency began to fulfill the great function which had been designed for it by the framers of the Constitution.

Of the five Vice-Presidents who have succeeded to the Presidency since 1840, Mr. Roosevelt is the only one, with the possible exception of Fillmore, whose accession has not caused a shock of surprise and disappointment. Mr. Roosevelt is recognized on all sides as a man of Presidential calibre. He was a leading candidate for the next nomination before the dreadful event which prematurely placed the office in his hands. But Arthur, although, as it turned out, he made an excellent President, would never have been considered seriously for that position in advance, and nobody would have thought of nominating Tyler or Johnson for the second place if his accession to the first had been regarded as likely.

It is quite time that the good example set by the nomination of Roosevelt should be generally followed. If we are to have accidental Presidents a quarter of the time there is no reason why they should be of inferior quality to those who administer the Government for the other three quarters. Let us cease to regard the Vice-Presidency as an office that anybody can consider it beneath his dignity to fill. The greatest statesman we can produce need not regard himself as belittled by accepting a place that has been held by Adams and Jefferson, and that has given five out of its last sixteen holders the control of the Government.

With the women the really important fall elections are all tied—and the clergymen fix the knots.

The Man and the Machine

THIS is an age of automatic devices. There is an ever-increasing tendency toward the elimination of the human factor from all possible problems. Little more than a century ago a boy stood by the cylinder of the engine and opened the escape-valve after every stroke of the piston. Then some one discovered that the opening and closing of the valve could be made automatic. This not only did away with the need for a boy but served the purpose much better, for the boy might forget or delay or move too soon or not soon enough, while the machine never made a mistake.

Right here is the value of the automatic arrangement. It is to be trusted. The banker is never quite certain that his cashier will not betray him, but the automatic time-lock is to be trusted to a finish. The tradesman may make a mistake in giving change, but the automatic register does not. Railroads once left the manipulation of switches and signals to their telegraph operators. Now and then one would go to sleep or delay or forget, and when he did something undesirable happened. Hence the railroads adopted the automatic arrangements now in use. The automatic switch is never open at the wrong time, and the automatic signal never says "Safe" when it should say "Danger."

Mathematically speaking, the reliability of any system of enterprise varies inversely as the human element involved, or directly as the mechanical element. Here lies the difficulty of conducting a government or an army or a large business. It is all human. The parts will persist in acting differently and less accurately than do those of a machine.

It is probable that more senseless things are said over defects in government arising from the imperfections of human service than over almost any other one thing. From blaming this official or that we come gradually to blame the whole lot. And since this element of human uncertainty is in any given number of persons a constant quantity—something that may be counted on as surely as the death calculation of an insurance company—our railing at officials in general is railing at humanity, and that is very unphilosophical. Then, too, we suggest all sorts of senseless expedients in the way of laws for the improvement of the departments of government and of the branches of politics. Some men's minds are built on geometric principles. They would have everything done by law. They would have laws not only for keeping the public in the way of righteousness but for making the officials enforce those that exist. The failure of all such propositions is due to the fact that those lines of activity must be carried out, not by machines which act automatically, but by men who never act just alike and seldom quite normally.