



The Pacific Unitarian (Classic Reprint)

Unknown Author



Excerpt from The Pacific Unitarian I can teach you with a quip if I've a mind I can trick you into learning with a laugh Oh, winnow all my folly and you'll find A grain or two of truth among the chaff. Proof in the law of compensation is afforded by the testimony of the knowing as to the effect of the automobile monomania. Ministers of the gospel charge them with decimating their congregations, and it is by no means a flattering unktion. It is probably a large contributing cause to thin attendance at church on pleasant Sundays. But there are other practices far less commendable that also are interfered with. One who knows avers that the saloon business in San Francisco isn't anything near so good as it used to be, and he attributes it largely to the automobile habit. He says people who used to spend a good deal of money at the bars of saloons save it up and buy machines, and Sundays and pleasant nights they go out in them, and the saloons see mighty little of them. This being the case, we must in final settlement with these devil wagons, as a pious farmer friend calls them, place to the credit of the large debit account a just allowance for diverting the support of that great social barnacle - the saloon. The social changes wrought by invention through the providing of new forms of amusement are a striking feature of modern life. It is said that fifty-five thousand miles of motion picture films a year are required to meet the world's demand, which is still rising. Indeed, the industry is in its infancy. In its advanced forms of cinematography, it is moving forward to a high plane, necessitating an investment that will bring the total to five hundred million dollars. At the present time rooms in the New Gallery in Regent Street, London, are being converted into a cinematograph theater at an expense of three hundred thousand dollars. The cost of films is steadily advancing. Sir Herbert Tree, the foremost of English actors, was lately paid a fee of ten thousand dollars for his services in posing for a play. The Kalem Company lately sent a complete company to Palestine to depict, on the historic spots, the scenes portrayed in the gospels. The original film, from which many copies are now being made, is insured for five hundred thousand dollars. In London six hundred thousand people on the average attend the picture palaces on each Sunday. The possibility for the extension of information and knowledge, as well as of entertainment and amusement is incalculable, and it certainly conduces to better family life when a father of limited means takes his children, at the cost of one glass of beer per head, and sees something that extends his knowledge, or with them enjoys a good laugh. It is far better than earning a headache in a corner grocery or a demoralizing saloon. The meeting of this combined danger and opportunity demands discrimination and control. The owners will give, when permitted, what the public demands. Responsibility for censorship on the part of the authorities cannot be avoided, but the final and the best control is in the hands of the people. If the best is demanded, it will be furnished. If the demoralizing is shunned, it will shrink to nothingness. New forms have no effect on old principles. The eternal distinction between use and abuse still presents itself. It is the part of wisdom to welcome the new, and to see to it that it augments the good. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com

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