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FREDERICTON, MAY, 1908.

A PITCHER FULL OF VIPERS.

(From Editorial in Hearst's Boston American.)

We have all heard about 'a pitcher full of vipers," but few of us have looked into one.

It would be grewsome and impressive to look down upon a writhing mass of shiny, squirming, struggling, twisting and winding snakes, climbing over one another, struggling to the top of the pitcher, falling back and others squirming up. The so-called "civilized being" of today would look with horror and compassion into a pitcher full of vipers. Their selfish struggling would appal him. The heartless crowding down of the weak by the strong, the coiling, twisting, hissing and biting would cause shudders of horror. But what about this world we live in? Imagine a really civilized being-for instance a splendid, intellectual, superhuman creature like that angel described by Dante, flying to open the way for Virgil and impatiently pushing aside the coarse impeding atmosphere.

Would our earth, to a pure mind, a really CIVILIZED BEING, appear to be so very different from a pitcher full of vipers?

Are we not all struggling, striving, And isn't nine-tenths of human success merely THE ABILITY OF THE STRONG TO CLIMB UPON THE BACKS OF THE WEAK AND CRUSH THE WEAK DOWN?

Isn't all of our material life a struggling, a squirming, AN EVER-LASTING CLIMBING?

What do we see in this selfish viper's nest that we call modern civilization? Are not the strong at the top, prosperous in comparison, struggling to keep at the top?

Are not the weak at the bottom, half suffocated, wretched, distressed, feebly struggling to get up, usually bitterly hating the topmost, AS THE TOPMOST DESPISE THE UNDERMOST?

We do not hiss like the vipers. But wouldn't our imaginary civilized being, listening to gossip, to slander, to insincere political ranting, to bitter religious discussion, find a resemblance between our so-called civilized discussions and a viper's hissing?

The strong despise the weak and

keep them down. The weak hate the strong while struggling to be like them and to share their power. The great man is standing on the shoulders of thousands too weak to pull him down and he is planning to climb higher on other thousands of shoulders.

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