

Passing the Buck.

The Indianapolis Star has one redeeming feature -- a column conducted by a wise old philosopher, Russel M. Seeds. From a recent issue we clip the following:

The mind of man, the mind of man!  
Solve the riddle, if you can!

The great paradox in American psychology lies in the fact that, with all our contempt of law and lawmakers, we have a perfectly childlike faith in the efficacy of law to correct personal faults and uproot original sin. Wherefore, if our son becomes a scold and stick out his tongue at us, we get a law passed making it a criminal offense for a son to stick out his tongue at his father and let it go at that. And, if the young rascal persists in his impudence, we send a delegate to Washington and write pieces to the paper and make long-winded addresses to the civic organizations, wanting to know why in the name of the great horn-spoon righteousness the law is not enforced. It never occurs to us that we should have trained our offspring in the way he should go, while he was yet young enough and small enough to be amenable to reason and authority. Because we have laws against stealing, it never occurs to us to teach our son the difference between mine and thine, until we find him arrested for "swiping" somebody's automobile and taking a joy ride. Time was when our parents taught us that it was a criminal disgrace to take a penny that did not belong to us, even if someone gave us a penny too much in change.

Having prohibited the manufacture and sale of liquor, it never occurs to us to teach our children the horrors of intemperance and we find young boys drunk at high school fraternity dances. Time was when no man was tolerated in good society with the smell of liquor on his breath and a boy that drank strong drink was at once ostracized by all the girls of his acquaintance. That was before we had substituted law for home training. Having enacted laws against gambling, we invite our youthful son or daughter to make up a hand at penny bridge, if we happen to be one guest short. And yet we expect the law to prevent them from gambling! And so we gamble and drink and give our neighbor a shade the worst of it in the horse trade, cuss the politicians, elevated to office by our own votes for high taxes and other ills of our own making, and walk our righteous way in the solemn belief that the other fellow is always to blame. And when we start for the poor house we'll call a taxi to make the trip!

The Fruit of Holy Communion.

Why was Lazarus raised from the dead? Because he had often received Our Lord into his house. The Saviour loved him so much that he shed tears at seeing him lifeless. How then should He leave in the humiliation of the tomb those whom he has honoured by His visit in Holy Communion, and who have eagerly desired Him, and received them into a heart afire with love and clothed with purity? -- Blessed Curé d'Ars.