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By
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“The object of the *Monitor* is to injure no man, but to bless all mankind.” One does not need to be a Christian Scientist to embrace “injuring no man but blessing all mankind,” Mary Baker Eddy’s vision for the *Monitor* as a laudable basis for one’s actions in life.

From the Editor for Volume 117-Issue 39, written by Noelle Swan, concluded:

“Geopolitical themes ripple around the globe. But when you drill down deep, you find individual people, members of families and communities, who are striving to build a better life for themselves—and each other.” Swan was pointing the reader toward the cover story, written by Simon Montlake, about a movement in Britain, particularly in areas where coal mines used to be the principal form of employment, “reaching beyond mainstream political parties.” Communities are finding ways to accommodate realities from the past and finding new ways to keep their communities intact.

The message is one of hope based on the capacity of people who are committed to each other to find their way through disruption and uncertainty.

The first article described how Europe and Arab states have gone “out on a limb together...[and] by making their two limbs touch, they supported one another and prevented fallout.” Their common agreements? Work for a two-state solution involving Israel and the Palestinians and ensure that Hamas has no role in a future Palestinian state.

The article ended: “The history of many European states makes them sympathetic to Israel’s desire to ensure its territorial integrity and safety. So ‘there’s been an unwillingness to use any significant pressure on Israel,’ says Dr. Stewart [analyst at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs]. ‘But one way you can see this is as taking baby steps toward that.’”

“Says Dr. Alghashian [Saudi researcher and fellow at the Gulf International Forum], ‘This is actually something very significant, and it is changing at least the diplomatic landscape, if not the actual landscape on the ground.’”

The next article outlined a challenge in the shipping industry that has resonance in many more fields of labor. How does one integrate automation and artificial intelligence in the industry without “sidelining humans?” The last paragraph: “To usher in a new generation of workers, the LA and Long Beach ports are developing a training center in partnership with the ILWU [the labor union], Pacific Maritime Association [representing the shipping terminals], and the California Community Colleges. The 20-acre campus is scheduled to open in 2029. ‘You’ve got to find a middle ground,’ that satisfies concerns about job losses while allowing the march of progress,’ says Mr. Seroka [official at the Port of Los Angeles]. ‘The conversation to keep moving forward is absolutely key.’”

Another article detailed how states and communities, in the wake of the cancellation of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program by the federal government, are finding new ways to raise the money needed to gird themselves against natural disasters. Without

question, poorer states and communities are hardest-hit by the elimination of BRIC as a funding source. Rachel Cleetus, from the Union of Concerned scientists, warned that “a small community that doesn’t have [access to funds]...could be caught in a spiral of diminishing investments as they see flooding worsen.”

Having read *Our Towns* by James and Deborah Fallows, a compendium of stories about small communities that developed local and regional responses to real needs, I expect that people in Cleetus’s “small communities” know about the potential threats and are working on solutions.

These stories have a common thread: people, not the national government, recognizing shared needs, through listening to each other and collaborative problem-solving, can accomplish a great deal. No doubt that will be a theme in the cover story when I get around to reading it.

In a section called Points of Progress, these are the five headlines: 1. **United States:** *Schoolchildren in Los Angeles rebounded with record test-score gains for a second consecutive year.* 2. **Argentina:** *A high court ruled that generating photos of child sex abuse with artificial intelligence is a crime.* 3. **Norway:** *Norway is leading the way in reducing homelessness.* 4. **Africa:** *Debt distress has cooled across the continent, a sign of improving financial health.* 5. **China:** *Scientists developed a solar-powered aerogel that transforms seawater into drinkable water.*

Like any other publication, telecast, online media outlet, etc. the *Monitor* chooses its stories. The mere act of choosing a story introduces a measure of subjectivity into any medium of information. Some choose “if it bleeds, it leads,” believing that crime stories are high on the list of things about which the public wants to know.

Others are voices for particular partisan points of view. The extremes of those types, in histories written about America in the 19th and early 20th centuries, have been called “yellow journalism.” But that era did not invent such publications nor are they unique to America.

The week Volume 117-Issue 39 reached us, there were far more stories clamoring for our attention as media-consumers than there was time in the 24-7 news cycle to research and report. News in such circumstances gets reduced to sound bites and word choices designed to activate our nervous systems, one way or another.

Volume 117-Issue 39 was a reminder that people are resilient, can solve problems working together, can envision a world where there is a community of nations. It reassures us, with stories from around the world, there are people of all ages that aspire “injure no man but bless all mankind.”

My nervous system can get excited about that.

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