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GOING TO SCHOOL.

"Now, children, you have told me how many meters we have in the Legislature, who presides over each body, how laws are made, and how often a United States Senator is elected, and in return I will—"

"I had reached this point the other evening when there came a ring at the door-bell, and after a minute I discovered that Mr. Old Foggy had decided on another attack. He meant to give me fits this time. He brought along two or three teachers with him, and they at once walked into my school room. I did at first have a sign of 'State Prison' over the door, so as to make it seem like a regular school-house to the pupils, but as they insisted upon regarding it as a novelty I removed the sign."

"Well, you have been teaching, I see?" observed Mr. Old Foggy. "Yes, six of these children belong in the neighborhood, and don't attend any regular school."

"We don't exactly agree on the school question, you know!" said Mr. Old Foggy. "You did rather stumpe me the other night, but I'd like you to ask some of those teachers a few questions."

"Very well, Mr. Blank, how many bushels of wheat will make a barrel of flour?"

"Why, that isn't a regular question," he replied as he looked round.

"Isn't it? Your arithmetic says that sixty pounds of wheat make a bushel, and because it does not say how many bushels make a barrel of flour the farmer who is figuring on his year's supply must be left in ignorance. Here is Charlie, only 9 years old—he may answer."

"From four and a half to five bushels," the boy replied.

"Now, Mr. Blank, can you name the more prominent stars?"

"I can, sir."

"I thought so; but can you tell me how many spokes there are in the front wheel of a buggy—can any of you?"

"I protest!" cried Mr. Old Foggy, but they didn't answer for all that.

"Well, Mr. Blank, can you translate Latin?"

"I can, sir."

"No doubt of it; but can you tell me how to preserve cider?"

"There, you go again!" cried Mr. Old Foggy, but none of them could tell.

"Are you familiar with cube root, Mr. Blank?"

"I am."

"But can you tell me the salary of our Governor?"

None of them could.

"Try some of the ladies," suggested Mr. Old Foggy, after a few more questions.

"All right, Miss Blank, are you good in algebra?"

"I think so."

"And can you tell me how many yards of cotton to buy for a pair of yellow-slips?"

"Why, no."

"Do you know what will take stains out of a table cloth, or grease spots out of a carpet?"

"No, sir."

"Can you direct a cook to make pie crust or mix biscuit or bread?"

"No, sir."

"Do you know the average length of lace curtains?"

"No, sir."

"Can you mix a mustard plaster, tell me a ready family antidote for poison, suggest a family remedy for a cold or a sore throat, tell me how many yards in a bunch of dress braid, the number of yards of ticking to make a bedtick, a way to remove paint from window, or how to make salad for the sick?"

"No, sir."

"What are you driving at?" indignantly demanded Mr. Old Foggy.

"I'll let my class go and tell you, let me first remark that I haven't asked a question which these children here can't answer. This little girl will promptly answer everything I have asked Miss Blank, and yet she is not ten years old. A month ago I told her that alum and brown sugar mixed together would relieve cramp. A week ago, at dead of night, roused from sleep by her parents and the walls of her sick brother, she prepared the remedy while her father was after the doctor and her mother excited and helpless, and in half an hour the cramp was gone. You asked me what I'm driving at? Women are called help-

less, and we do not look to see them have presence of mind. Why are they so? Simply because they may know algebra by heart and yet not know what an antidote is for almost every poison. They learn astronomy; and yet don't know what is good for a burn, or how to stop the nose bleed. They know all about botany, and yet can not tell what to do for a person who has fainted away."

"But I'm not a housekeeper," protested Miss Blank.

"No; well, every woman looks forward to marriage. They were born to. Every female expects to marry rich, but not one in five hundred can so marry as to throw the entire responsibility of her house on hired help. Six out of ten may have a servant, but unless the mistress knows how things should go what can be expected of the girl? While the lady sits in the parlor and realizes that she can draw, play the piano and read French, the 'help' left to experiments, and having no interest, breaks, smashes and throws away, and the family are soon looking for a cheaper house. Miss Blank here may marry and never have to lift a hand, but if she knew every duty—if she knew readies and receipts—wouldn't she have more self-reliance and be better prepared for her responsibilities?"

"Can you name one married lady in Detroit who makes use of algebra? Can you name one who is ever inconvenienced for the want of a knowledge of geometry? Do you know of one who wouldn't trade off all her Latin for a cure for corns?"

Mr. Old Foggy said he thought it looked as if we would have a snow-storm.

"Then take the other side. We do not teach our boys to be observing, and then we turn around and call them heedless. We pass the things of every day life to let them grasp at the theoretical. They thus become helpless. They can name the planets, but they cannot give the length and width of a brick. They can name every ancient philosopher, but they can't put up the stove-pipe; they can figure in cube-root, but they can't tell all-wool cloth from half cotton. We let them go to school for years, are proud to find that they know so much, and then discover that they can't tell why hickory wood will burn longer than pine, and we hear somebody say of them: 'He has a fine education but no horse-sense.'"

Mr. Old Foggy suggested that it was getting late.

"Now, then, some of you tell me of a business man who has made his money through a classical education. Tell me one lawyer who wins by flowery speeches, and I'll name a dozen who win by arguments which even boys can digest. Name a merchant who buys at random, as we educate children, and I will name the day of his failure. Name one who can tell you how to saw out a boot-jack, build an ice box, putty in a pane of glass, mix paint or hang a gate, and I'll show you that he is doing a safe business, dictated by observation and common sense. Last year a gentleman with a fine collegiate education opened a grocery store on a certain street in this city, asking no advice as to location, and making no observation on the movement of the public. He had got nicely opened when a bootblack called in one day and blantly said: 'Gimme a cent's worth of peanuts!'"

"Jesuits! booo, I don't keep a peanut stand!" was the indignant reply.

"You won't keep even a peanut stand here two months from now!" chuckled the lad as he lounged out.

In five weeks there was a failure, and the grocer was \$3,000 cash out of pocket in seven weeks' time. The observing boy knew that store was too far down town, because he had watched the movements of the people who bought at retail. The grocer had been at Yale College, and he didn't deem it necessary to know a lamp-post from a salt-barrel in order to establish a trade.

The other day a lady who can speak several languages and who graduated with high honors at Vassar wanted some mince pies made and put away for New Year's. Neither of her servant girls knew how to make them, and so the lady went out among her neighbors. She tried to remember what they told her, but her pies were made without sugar or salt, and with only one crust. When told "they tasted like basswood chips," she burst into tears and sobbed out:

"They educated me to be an idiot instead of a woman!"—M. Quad, in Detroit Free Press.

NOT A FRIED.

Yesterday when a benizish looking man entered a saloon on Grand River street and stated that he felt like having a shake of the ague, the bar-tender coldly replied that he might have four of them for all he cared.

"I have no money and I must have a drink of gin or a shake of the ague," continued the man.

"No money, no gin." "Have you no heart?" appealed the stranger.

"Yes, sir; but it's ten years since I saw a man shake and I shall really enjoy your performance. Please let me know when the show begins."

"It—it (shiver) will begin (shiver) right o-o-o!" stammered the man, and it did. His lips turned blue, his hands grew cold and he shook.

At the first shake a brick fell from one of his coat pockets. At the next an egg plant was shaken from another. In about a minute he shook down four onions, an empty oyster can, a ball of string, two new pie pans, a stove handle and about twenty cigar stubs. Where they came from no one could see, but every shiver was accompanied by a rattle and din.

"Got it pretty hard," remarked the saloonist.

"This is only the b-u-beginning!" shivered the man, as he backed up to the stove. There was no fire in it, and the pipe was shaken down in a minute. In the confusion two tables were upset and a decanter knocked off the counter and a free fight ensued between five or six men. When peace reigned the man with the ague was found on a barrel outside, shaking so that the iron hoops rattled.

"You scoundrel!" shouted the saloonist.

"Don't I shake?" inquired the man, and "can I help shaking?"

"You have damaged me fifty dollars worth!"

"I'm s-sorry, but didn't I warn you and d-didn't you want to see the per-performance? Do you 'spose I'm a fraud, and that I g-go round per-performing for nuthin'?" F-fifty dollars is my lowest figger, sir, and I s-sometimes get a hundred!"

HOW TO TRIM AN OSAGE HEDGE.

(Burlington Hawkeye.)

I saw an honest farmer trimming an osage orange hedge over in Henry county. It is a very peculiar operation, and I listened to it with a good deal of interest. I say listened, because the interesting feature of trimming a hedge consists not so much in what the farmer does, as in what he says. The honest farmer had a crooked knife on the end of a hoe handle. He stuck this into the tall hedge and gave it a jerk.

Then he said:

"Ah!"

Then he jerked again and down came the hedge switch. Then he said:

"Ah-h!"

Then he took hold of the withered switch and drew it away from the hedge. Then he put his thumb to his mouth and stood on one foot, and said:

"Ah-h-h-h!"

Then he once more into the breach dear, dear, friends, made another prod with the hook and said, loudly:

"Gee-whizz!"

Then he pulled out a wicked looking branch with his hook and roared:

"Great snakes!"

Then he pulled out a crooked branch so full of thorns that it made your back ache to look at it, and when he stumbled over it and it wrapped itself around his legs, he stood still for a second, then dropped his hook, lifted his hands to heaven and screamed:

"Oh! Bloody murder!"

The next rake he made he brought the whole top of a hedge plant with five or six branches, right down on his back. Then he threw his hedge hook fifty feet into a ten acre field, opened his mouth three in voiceless grasp, spread his arms out and fell down flat on his face dug his toes into the turf, drumming on the turf in his agony with his clenched fists, and wailed like a storm of wrath:

"Oh! I did essentially! Take him off! Somebody take him off!"

When he got up he said I seemed interested in hedge trimming, and he would teach me how to do it myself. I said no, I wouldn't try to learn. I would like to know how, but I was too awfully lazy.

TOIL AND BE HAPPY.

The Christian at Work thinks that Ruskin never said a truer thing than this: "If you want knowledge, you must toil for it; if food, you must toil for it; and if pleasure, you must toil for it." Toil is law. Pleasure comes through toil, and not by self-indulgence and indolence. When one gets to love work his life is a happy one. Said a poor man in Brooklyn, the other day, with a family of eleven to provide for: "If I were worth a million dollars, I should not wish to do much different than I do now every day, working hour after hour. I love it a thousand times better than to rest." He has for nearly half a century been surrounded by workers and has caught the spirit of industry. He loves his work better than food or sleep. He is happy who has conquered laziness, once and forever.

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