

NERVE OF THE HAUGHTY DON

Striking Description of the Daring and Courage Displayed by the Old General Who Would Not Permit an Englishman to Outdo Him.

The realistic Spanish novelist, Valdes, in one of his most popular stories ("Sister San Suplice," translated by Nathan Haskell Doole) gives a description of a retired Spanish general's afternoon out which will illuminate many chivalric incidents in Spanish life and aptly illustrates the reckless daring and courage of which the average haughty don is liberally possessed.

"The count remained grave and silent, drinking one glass of sherry after another. But his eyes were no longer as usual, incomprehensible and unfathomable, like those of a man tired of life. Though he did not speak or move about he seemed a different man.

"The Englishman had taken off his jacket and waistcoat and, rolling up his shirt sleeves, was exhibiting his biceps, which were really powerful, and trying to break empty bottles on his arm. Once blood had come, but he went on breaking the bottles without paying any attention to it. Then he asked the waiter to bring a bottle of rum and a large glass. He filled this to the brim with the liquor, and then slowly, without moving a muscle or even winking, he drained it to the bottom. Then he sat down at the table opposite the count and said solemnly:

"A flash of fury gleamed through the harelipped nobleman's eyes, but he succeeded in restraining himself, and, turning the rest of the bottle into the glass, he calmly ordered the waiter to bring him some pepper. He threw in a pinch of it, then threw into it his cigar ashes heaped up before him and, without saying a word, with the same scornful, contemptuous smile, drained the glass and, not content with that, bit it in pieces. We saw his lips spotted with blood. The company received with oles and shouts of triumph this proof of an unconquerable stomach, in which it seemed as though the national honor were concerned.

"Our neighbors in the other booths must have reached the same happy grade of temperature, for nothing was heard but extravagant shouts, the crashing of glasses, coarse laughter and swearing.

"The count was not yet satisfied with his victory over the Englishman. While he was swallowing with apparent calmness the glasses of liquor which were offered to him he did not cease to devour him with his eyes, carried away by a dull madness, which soon broke out. His eyes, which were the only part of his impassive face that moved, gleamed more and more ferociously, like those of a madman when a straitjacket has been put on him. The Englishman continued to boast of his strength. He was now thoroughly intoxicated and talking impudently enough to the others, who were not so drunk.

"So you are very valiant, are you? asked the count, still smiling disdainfully.

"More than you," retorted the Englishman.

"Don Jenaro started to spring at him, but the others restrained him. Soon calming himself, he said:

"If you are so brave, why not put your hand on the table?"

"What for?"

"To pin it down with mine."

"The Englishman without an instant's hesitation stretched out his huge, brawny hand. The count took out of his pocket a damasked dagger and laid his delicate, gentlemanly hand on the Englishman's, and without hesitation and with a ferocious grip he raised the point with the other

and drove it through both into the table. "The women uttered a cry of terror. All of us men ran to their assistance. A few left the place in search of help. In an instant our booth was filled with blood. From the wounds great drops of blood streamed, staining the handkerchiefs which we applied to them.

"A doctor who happened to be among the bystanders dressed the wounds provisionally with the few means at his disposal. The count smiled while they were dressing his hand. The Englishman was as sick as a horse, and both were taken to such rooms as the establishment had to offer and went to bed. Every one left, commenting on the barbarism of the deed."

Be rich in patience if thou in good fortune be poor.—Dunbar.

The Hanging of Pictures. A woman bought three pictures in a Fifth avenue art store.

"I-I don't know," hesitated the woman, who had already exceeded her allowance in buying the pictures. "How much extra will it cost?"

"Not a cent," the dealer assured her. "In the case of any important sale we prefer that one of our men superintend the hanging of the picture. That insures justice for the painting. Without meaning any disrespect for our customers, I must say that not one person in a hundred who has had no special instruction in art can take a picture home and place it in an advantageous position. A man who has been trained to that business, on the other hand, can tell at a glance where to hang it and all the others in the room so that each will bring out the best points of all the rest."—New York Sun.

Roadside Wit. He who matched wits with the author of "The Ancient Mariner" had indeed a lively task before him, for Coleridge was never caught napping. The poet was so awkward a horseman that his riding often attracted comment of anything but a complimentary nature.

One day he was riding along the turnpike road in the county of Durham when a wag who met him fastened upon him as an excellent subject for sport. Consequently he drew rein and said in an impertinent drawl:

"My graceful friend, did you happen to meet a tailor on the road?"

"I'm inclined to think I did," said Coleridge meditatively. "I was not sure at the moment, but he said something about my meeting a goose farther along the road."

The wag put spurs to his horse, and the poet jogged calmly on his way.

Past Salaries of Actors. A number of autograph letters of Edmund Kean supply some interesting information about the salaries of actors early in the nineteenth century. One relates to an offer by Mr. Ellison offering Kean £3 a week as acting manager of "the new theater in Wych street." Later this rose to £25 a month.

In 1826 Kean was offered \$12,000 a year to go to America. In the prime of his popularity he received £200 for a week in Edinburgh and apparently reached the highest point when Mr. Bunn wrote from the Theater Royal, Dublin, on Feb. 8, 1829, and offered him £50 a night to play in Dublin and Cork.—Liverpool Mercury.

Home Influences. Each one of us is bound to make the little circle in which he lives better and happier; each one of us is bound to see that out of that small circle the widest good may flow; each of us may have fixed in his mind the thought that out of a single household may flow influences which shall stimulate the whole commonwealth and the whole civilized world.—Dean Stanley.

Got Too Important. "What has become of the maid you thought such a prize?"

"Oh, I had to let her go!" replied the second fashionable woman. "After her operation for appendicitis she thought she was one of us."—Philadelphia Ledger.

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A SERIOUS LAUGH.

The Penalty of Mirth at an Ancient Church Celebration.

There was a church celebration of a father exciting nature many years ago in Lynn, Mass. The occurrences marking the dedication of the Old Tunnel Meeting house in 1822 are recorded by an eyewitness and quoted in Obadiah Oldpath's "Lin." After the formal ceremony of dedication a feast was held.

Ye dinner was in ye greete barne of Mr. Hood. While we were at table a rooster flew to ye beam over our heads. Mr. Richardson, ye Newbury minister, in a very loud voice and stately mien proclaimed that the ye house was a noble temple it yet was but a fit casement for ye godly jewel of Lin. Whereupon a most lusty crow was set up by ye old cock on ye beam, and he flapped his wings, sending ye dust down on te ye table.

Ye companie hurled apples at ye misbehaving fowle, but, not being of good aim, did not hit, and with a whirring noise it flew to ye ground as if in disgust.

Mr. Gerrish was in a merrie mood. Not having his thots about him, he endeavored ye dangerous performance of gaping and laughing at ye same time. In doing so he set his jaws open in such a wise that it was beyond his power to bring them back again. His agonie was very greate, and his joyful laugh was soon turned to grievous groaning.

We did our utmost to stay the anguish of Mr. Gerrish, but could make out but little till Mr. Rogers, who knoweth something of anatomie, did bid ye sufferer to sit down on ye floor, and taking his head between his legs, turning ye face upward as much as possible, gave a powerful blow and sudden press, which brought ye jws again into working order. But Mr. Gerrish did not gape nor laugh mu h more, neither did he talk much for that matter.

A Felicitous Aside.

A senator, describing a campaign wherein he had outgeneraled a rival, said:

"When it became plain that victory was mine, when my opponent's face began to grow darker and more forbidding, I smiled to myself. I could have muttered to myself some such felicitous aside as that which came from the small boy who was being spanked. In the course of his spanking the boy's mother paused to say in sincere tones: "Tommy, this hurts me far more than it does you."

"And thereupon in his odd, face downward position the boy winked and muttered to himself: "I was afraid that hard board I put in the seat of my trousers might injure her delicate hand."

Cowardly Women.

A great many times a woman is regarded as cowardly because she fears to be alone at night, starts at unusual noises and faints if startled or shocked. It's not cowardice but sickness. There is a nervous condition which in its extreme sensitiveness renders life a daily torment. If the door slams, "it seems as if the sound goes right through me," cries the startled sufferer. Behind this nervous condition will generally be found a diseased condition of the delicate womanly organs. The functions are irregular, or there may be an incessant drain. Inflammation may be scorching or ulceration eating into the delicate parts. Such conditions are promptly relieved and permanently cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It heals the diseases which cause nervousness, backache, headache, etc. "Favorite Prescription" contains no alcohol, and is absolutely free from opium, cocaine and all other narcotics.

Got It Overboard. Once while in a foreign port Admiral Dewey ordered the heaviest hoisting tackle in the ship to be got out of the hold without delay. Nobody knew what it was for, as there was nothing just at that time, either heavy or light, to be taken on board or sent ashore. After two hours' hard work the tackle was in place, and Dewey then ordered that a large chew of tobacco which had been thrown under one of the guns be hoisted overboard and dumped into the sea.

Helpless. First Deaf Mute—If you objected to his kissing you, why didn't you call for help? Second Deaf Mute—I couldn't. He was holding both my hands.—Harper's Weekly.

Patience is the strongest of strong drinks, for it kills the giant despair.—Jerrold.

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Hair Dresser.

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