

Love and Death.

Very closely love and death dwell together—high up in the world of nature and low down! The following well authenticated story comes from Northamptonshire: A sparrow hawk was killed when feeding her young. Four days later when the nest was examined it was found that the little male bird, working alone for the family, had brought home forty-eight birds—viz, six larks, nine swallows, one bullfinch, seven robins, six sparrows, six hedge sparrows, nine blue tits, three chaffinches and one wren.

What a spirit of dutifulness along with ferocity is here exhibited on the part of the small widower hawk, who evidently thought that the best way of respecting the memory of his departed consort was to feed her children well! And in doing this how absolutely oblivious nature had rendered him of the feelings of the poor larks, swallows, bullfinches and robins, whose offspring—or the parents themselves—his relentless parental affection thus annexed! The direct cruelty animated by the tenderest love! The most savage egotism prompted by an entire unselfishness! Such are some of the problems which nature furnishes, but will not solve.—London Telegraph.

The First Test of Baby's Mind.

Just as the germ of the flower is contained in the tiniest seed and will reveal itself with an absolute certainty as will rootlets and leaves when proper conditions of heat, moisture and light are accorded, so the germ of the mind of a child is present in his little body and will develop and unfold itself with the growth of the latter.

The only way to stop the growth of a child's mind is to stop his body from growing. Appetite is the mother of the mind, and muscle is its father. At its lowest estimate the body with its brain is the tool of the mind, and good work cannot be done without good tools.

The first test of muscular vigor, the hand grasp, is an indication of the mental possibilities as well. Not one child out of a hundred who at ten days of age grasps firmly and clings to a finger or pencil rubbed against his pink little palm will ever fall below the average intelligence of his race.—Woods Hutchinson, M. D., in Woman's Home Companion.

The Home of Storms.

The waters of Cape Horn have never been unvisited by storms for more than a week or two at a stretch within the memory of man. Standing on the outposts of the world, Cape Horn is the meeting place of ocean currents of very different temperature, from the icy cold waters of the Antarctic drift to the warmth of the Brazilian and Peruvian return currents.

The prevailing winds are from the northwest and west, and these, coming from the warm regions of the Pacific, condense into fogs, which the sailors call "Cape Horn blankets" and which are the forerunners of storms. The extremely low level to which the glaciers of Tierra del Fuego descend, the perpetual congelation of the sub-soil, the meeting of conflicting winds at very different temperatures, are all direct or indirect causes combining to make this the most constantly stormy region of the world.

Not a Soloist.

The late Theodore Thomas was rehearsing the Chicago Orchestra on the stage of the Auditorium theater. He was disturbed by the whistling of Albert Burridge, the well known scene painter, who was at work in the loft above the stage. A few minutes later Mr. Thomas' librarian appeared on the "bridge" where Mr. Burridge, merrily whistling, was at work.

"Mr. Thomas' compliments," said the librarian, "and he requests me to state that if Mr. Burridge wishes to whistle he will be glad to discontinue his rehearsal."

To which Mr. Burridge replied suavely, "Mr. Burridge's compliments to Mr. Thomas, and please inform Mr. Thomas that if Mr. Burridge cannot whistle with the orchestra he won't whistle at all."—Success Magazine.

The Sheep in the Grass.

Lord Palmerston once inspected "Summer in the Lowlands," a picture by Sir John Watson Gordon. "Look here," said Lord Palmerston to the artist, "why should the grass in that field be so long when there are so many sheep in the field?"

"My lord," replied the artist, "those sheep were only turned into the field last night!"

The Other Side.

Mrs. Neighbor—it's too bad of you, Mildred, to worry your mamma so! Little Mildred—Well, you don't know mamma. She worries me more than I worry her!

Crucel.

Miss Oldun—Oh, dear, I'm afraid I shall have to get some of that wrinkle eradicator they advertise. Miss Pertly—Let me get it for you. I have a brother in the wholesale drug business.—Boston Transcript.

A Philosopher.

"Pa, what is a philosopher?" "A philosopher, Tommy, is a man who doesn't worry any about financial stringencies, because he never has any money."—Somerville Journal.

You might as well expect one wave of the sea to be precisely the same as the next wave of the sea as to expect that there would be no change of circumstances.

Ways of the Dressmaker.

A curious dressmaking custom was revealed in a case tried in London, and it would be interesting to know if similar practices prevail elsewhere. A woman ordered a dress from a dressmaker and then refused to pay the bill on the ground that the dress did not fit—a very common excuse among those who have changed their minds. The bill was for \$50 for material and making, and the dressmaker in defending her charges explained that she had two establishments, one at Putney and the other on Manchester street. The dress in question had been made at Putney, but if it had been made at the Manchester street establishment she would have charged about \$75, although there would have been no difference whatever in material or workmanship. Prices, she said, were regulated by locality, and, although Putney is socially irreproachable, it is not quite equal to Manchester street. The price of a dress is therefore indicative of geographical location rather than of quality, and for this side light on feminine manners and customs we may be duly grateful.—Argonaut.

Their Fears Realized.

A noted English statistician was discussing in New York the statistics of marriage—marriage statistics are his speciality.

"The last statistics," he said, "show us one pleasant change, one grand improvement. Aged men of wealth are no longer marrying beautiful, mercenary young women as frequently as they used. In fact, these hideous marriages are becoming in this country so rare that the newspapers don't hesitate to comment very forcibly upon them. I approve of these cruel comments. They keep such mockeries of marriage down. In a little town in Herts last month," he said, "a millionaire of seventy-nine years married a young and pretty milliner of twenty-two. The local paper printed the next day this editorial paragraph on the matter: 'Six months ago, when Mr. Blank's venerable wife died, his children and grandchildren feared that he would go crazy over the sad bereavement. Their fears have now come true.'"

Perjury Penalties.

Perjury, besides being one of the oldest of offenses in the catalogue of crime, has always been very severely punished. With the advance of civilization, however, fendish punishments have been replaced by more humane if still severe penalties. In the days of the Roman empire any one who committed perjury was thrown from a precipice, while the Greeks branded their false swearers. It is interesting to note that when the latter embraced the Christian religion the punishment was altered to that of having the tongue cut out, a sort of punishment which was considered to fit the crime in the early centuries. In the middle ages some countries adopted the system of giving the perjurer the punishment for the crime he falsely accused another of. Thus if he swore a neighbor had committed murder and the charge was disproved the perjurer would be sentenced to death, and the other penalties of the penal code were exacted for the particular crime alleged.

Napoleon at Dinner.

Napoleon was no epicure. He usually drank nothing but diluted chamberlain and was no judge of wine. He liked plain dinners—bottled or roast chicken, mutton chops, grilled neck of mutton, haricot beans or lentils. His table manners were not very refined. He would use his finger in lieu of fork or spoon and would dip his bread in the sauce, the dish being then passed around to guests, who had to dispense with squeamishness. The bread had to be particularly good. He ate fast, quitting the table in twelve minutes and leaving Josephine and the company to take their time. When he dined alone he commonly took only eight or ten minutes. Indigestion was the natural consequence of this speed, and he had sometimes to stretch himself at full length on the carpet till the pain abated. He detested physic and professed to disbelieve in it, a subject of playful discussion with his doctors. Constant never knew him to be obliged to keep his bed a whole day. He was very sensitive to cold and had fires and warm beds all the year.

It Was a New "Team" to Him.

Heinrich Conried told the following story once when chatting of his experience as an operatic director: "It happened in Chicago," said he. "I went there to superintend our first season in Chicago. I got there early in the afternoon. As I was registering at the Auditorium a young, a very young, newspaper man came up and talked to me. He begged for an interview. I told him I had arranged to see the press at 5. That did not satisfy him. He was on an afternoon paper. It would be a feather in his cap if he could scoop the town. 'Very well,' said I to him, 'I shall give you an interview, but it will have to be while I am taking my bath.' He seemed an intelligent and earnest young man, and I was willing to do that much for him. 'I turned on the water and divested myself of my coat, and the interview proceeded. 'What do you open with?' said he. 'I open with 'Tristan und Isolde,' I answered. 'Have they ever been here before?' he queried."

A Definition.

"Paw," asked a thoughtful lad, wrinkling his brow, "what's a pessimist?" "A pessimist, John J.," replied his father, "is a man who, after a cyclone has blown his house away with him in it, goes back and grumbles at his lot."—Puck.

Singing and Gargling.

Singers do not give away their secrets of the voice. I know, however, that some of the tenors and prima donnas use an astringent gargle whenever their vocal cords become so relaxed that very high notes are difficult to emit. One famous little tenor used cold tea that had drawn a long time. Such a gargle, though, does not improve the quality of the voice, even if it does raise the pitch temporarily.

The popular gargle among opera artists is the solvent. It loosens crasals which form in the throat and nasal cavities and removes mucous which cannot be got rid of by coughing and hawking. A common wash is twelve grains of chlorate of potash to a wine-glassful of warm water. Many singers and orators in order to render their voices clear and mellow use a gargle containing one teaspoonful of common salt and one of baking soda in a tumblerful of water. These gargles are improved by further adding some aromatic substances to stimulate the mucous membrane with which they come in contact.—New York Press.

Needles and Pins.

The Lancet tells of a peculiar case in a London hospital. The patient, a healthy Scotch girl, aged twenty years, was in the habit of putting pins in her mouth and sometimes had been known to fall asleep without removing them. She was admitted to the hospital, having swallowed five pins accidentally while fixing clothes, and by the help of emetics she was relieved of them. Returning home, she began regularly to vomit pins and got rid of twenty-three in the course of a month. She then began to produce needles, and in a fortnight thirteen came out from the following situations: The left nostril, the origin of the sternomastoid behind the left ear and a spot on the front of the right forearm. At the same time she continued vomiting pins until seventy-five had appeared. The needles were blackened and slightly eroded, and two of them were threaded with about three inches of thread.

He Emptied His Pockets.

The Comte de Corbieres, minister of the interior to Louis XVIII, while working in the king's cabinet one day became absorbed in his work and so far forgot himself as to place his snuffbox on the king's desk after taking snuff. The king observed this unheard-of familiarity from the corner of his eye, but said nothing. Presently the minister whipped out his pocket handkerchief and placed it beside the snuffbox.

"M. de Corbieres," remarked the king at last, "you appear to be emptying your pockets."

Neat Little Game.

After tea she brought over his pipe and his slippers. "John," she whispered tenderly, "do you know my conscience has been hurting me and I have formed a little conscience fund."

"Conscience fund?" asked the big husband in surprise. "Yes, dear. You see, I have been borrowing a few dollars out of your vest pockets every night for a week, and here is the entire sum."

A Comparison.

The old gentleman was very angry. There could be no doubt about that. Threatening the other with his fist, he snouted, "If your brain was put in a mustard seed it would have as much room as a shrimp in the Atlantic!"

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