

TAKING A STAND.

"I hope you won't misjudge me, Dick, but I have had to take a stand in the matter," Mrs. Deighton said, regretfully, as, having measured a cupful of flour and dropped it into the sifter, she looked across the kitchen at her brother.

"Do you really mean, Kate, that you are not going to invite the family to celebrate mother's birthday in your home as we have done for the last six years; in fact, ever since she came back from the east to live with you?" her brother asked.

"Exactly." Mrs. Deighton measured another spoonful of flour, set it on the table, seated herself on a chair near and faced her visitor. "I quite expected that you'd be coming, Dick, to learn my plans for mother's birthday, and you're entitled to know them, for you, at least, have always been appreciative. You see, entertaining 22 children and grandchildren of mother's has meant a lot of work and expense for me, but I have felt that it was worth while if only mother and the family were pleased. But human nature, especially woman nature, craves appreciation, and since I've heard of certain disparaging remarks about my method of entertaining, made by different members of the family, I have decided not to have the birthday meeting this year."

"But we've always had a splendid time," Dick urged. "You mustn't take the family's personal view, but the general view, and I happen to know that most of us thought last year's entertainment the best of the lot."

"I heard that Fred's wife said she never had a duller time," Mrs. Deighton replied.

"Maybe she wasn't feeling well; that makes big differences," Dick suggested.

"And Jack's wife said that I might have used my best tablecloth and napkins, as she would have done if it had been her mother's birthday."

"Bessie's only a bride, and maybe she would have put on more frills and less roast beef," Dick said soothingly.

"Margaret criticized me for having the children; she said they made her nervous. That's because she hasn't any of her own. However, I must say that if I were to have the family this year, I wouldn't invite the children, at least with the grownups; they got into so much mischief last year when I couldn't be around to watch them."

"Well, I'm sorry you've decided not to have us this year," Dick said as he rose to go.

"If every one were as appreciative as you are we'd have it as usual," Mrs. Deighton replied, proceeding to measure another cupful of flour.

Dick reached for his hat. "Is that one of your famous sponge cakes you're making?" he asked.

"No; it's the white pound cake birthday recipe."

"Birthday cake? I thought—" Dick stopped. "Well, give my love to mother. I'm sorry not to see her today, but I'm glad she's having a good sleep this morning. Lucy and I will come in to see her on her birthday if you'll be at home, Kate."

"Be at home? Why, of course I'll be at home. Where else should I be on mother's birthday?" Mrs. Deighton asked wonderingly. "Tomorrow I shall make the sponge cake and coconut layer cake—that's Jack's favorite. Thursday morning I shall boil the ham and roast the beef. Of course, the boys and their wives will feel that the least they can do is to come to see mother on her birthday."

Is there any special time you'd like us to come, Kate?" asked Dick.

"Between six and half past," Mrs. Deighton answered promptly. "Mark gets home a little after six."

"We'll be here," Dick said. "I'll let Jack and Fred and Bob know. Is there anything you'd like us to bring, Kate?"

"Nothing except the children. I've made a batch of lemon and one of ginger cookies especially for them. And, Dick, I hope that neither you nor any of the others will feel hurt at the stand I've taken this year about the meeting here on mother's birthday. I feel that I couldn't have it after all the criticism. You understand, don't you?"

"But I thought—" Dick began.

Mrs. Deighton counting out a dozen eggs from a basket, placed the twelfth one on the table, and then said, a note of satisfaction in her voice: "You know, it's one thing to invite a number of people to your house and quite another thing to have that same number come as in duty bound. I've made even more preparations than I did last year, because there'll be 24 of us instead of 22, since Margaret's nieces are here, and not a soul will dare to criticize things, because of being self-invited. Do you see?"

"Maybe; but I think it will take a woman to understand your argument," Dick answered, laughing.

Strange.

One of the strangest things in this world is why the kind of woman who is proud of her intellectuality nearly always marries a man who likes to tinker with sick chickens.—Galveston News.

Unreasonableness Permissible.

Human beings were never meant to be entirely reasonable people. Judgment and persuasiveness were added to play a part in human nature.

Work of Gothic Sculptors.

The Gothic sculptors produced crude and grotesque carvings from a technical standpoint, but they were the first to attempt intimate speech in art addressed to the common people, and both Rossellino and Giotto with their clever followers are heirs of the humbler craftsmen who broke the bonds of convention to immortalize the homeliness and variety of daily experience and common types of human nature.

Money Question from Woman's View.

Most men trust their wives with their hearts, but draw the line at their pocketbooks. Some day I am going to write a book on the righteousness of a husband giving his wife a regular allowance and never asking her to account for it. Better still, a common purse and let her help herself. As long as any woman works for her clothes and board and lives on bounty she is a serf.—Exchange.

The Impeccable Sardine.

They can be given to children without fear of their choking. It can easily be recognized that the bones are taken away. A large number of consumers evidently judge thus, as sardines so prepared have a first class reputation. They are to be found on all tables where the lady of the house wishes to show she lives in style.—From an earnest advertisement.

Nicely Put.

Brahms dined one day with one of his fanatic admirers, and the latter, knowing the master's predilection for fine wine, had a bottle of renowned quality brought to the table toward the end of the repast. "This," he exclaimed, "is the Brahms among my wines!" The guest sipped of it, saying: "Excellent, wonderful! Now bring on your Beethoven!"

By the Evidence.

Donald, aged 4, had been to school with an older friend and had seen the teacher put a star on the cards of each child whose conduct had been good. That evening while walking out with his parents, he remarked after looking at the starry sky. "There've been lots of good boys today."

Early Type of Letters.

The type of letters in early manuscripts was the same as that of those used on the earlier metal plates and wax tablets. All letters were capitals. Minuscule, or small lettering, as opposed to the majuscule, was invented in the seventh century.

An Explanation.

"Your nephew is a college graduate, isn't he?" "Yes," confessed honest Farmer Hornbank; "but in justice to the college I'll own up that he had no sense beforehand."—Woman's Home Companion.

Tamed at the Start.

Statistics show that in nearly all cases the college girl, when she marries, stays married. Probably she starts out by giving her husband a vivid description of the hazing stunts she has participated in.—Cleveland Leader.

How's This for a Record?

A New Jersey woman has been a cook in a family for 42 years. She has never asked for a vacation, has never found fault with anything, has always cooked on a coal range and is happy and contented.—Exchange.

Provided for Burial Vault.

By the will of a French lady who died recently a farm was left to the town on condition her family vault was kept in repair; while the rest of her estate was to be divided among those attending her funeral.

What Fear Did.

A wealthy man in New York committed suicide when his doctor told him he had appendicitis. A post mortem revealed that he did not have it. His fear of evil was worse than the evil itself. (Prov. 1:33.)

Brute, Indeed!

The Wife—I do believe I would fall dead if you were to come home early some evening. The Brute—You will have to offer a bigger bribe than that.—Indianapolis Press.

All is Character.

"Behind every foreground of action lies the background of character on which the action rests and from which it gets its life and meaning."—Phillips Brooks.

Helps to Feed Japanese.

Most abundant of all seaweeds are the kelps, distributed along every coast in the world. From these the Japanese prepare many food products, known under the generic name kombu.

Uncle Eben.

"De man dat gits de mos' out of life," said Uncle Eben, "is de one dat's willin' to jump in an' hep' heave cotton while he's down to de dock waitin' foh his ship to come in."

Attitude and Art.

Fewer people are reading who are taking pictures taken by those who think they are taking pictures.

Profit in Seaweed.

The same species of seaweed used in Japan for the manufacture of kanten exists in inexhaustible abundance on our Pacific coast and at numerous places along the Atlantic coast, while related species, of equal value, are abundant almost everywhere in temperate waters. In this country the product commands high prices, so that the manufacture of seaweed insinuates ought to prove a highly remunerative industry.

Story of Chicago Physician.

A prominent physician tells this story: A poor woman went to a nearby dispensary to ask aid for her little son who had one of his fingers smashed with a baseball bat. At the first room where she applied a curt attendant told her that the boy could not be treated there. "Wrong place," he explained, "this is the eye and the ear department." "Here is der thumb and finger department?" inquired the woman, simply.

Importance of Being Correct.

The Sunday school teacher was telling her class about the wicked children mocking the good prophet, and how two she bears came out of the mountains and "ate up" forty of the wicked children. "Now, boys," she concluded, "what lesson does this teach us?" "I know," said one youngster; "it teaches us how many children she bear can hold."

Touching Tenderness.

A tender parent has been discovered in New York. Having been warned that the milk he sold to others and fed to his own babe was slowly killing the latter, he promptly took an expensive bottled milk for the child, though he cheerfully continued to supply the infants of his poorer neighbors with the condemned stock.

Presumably.

Plus IX was not without a certain sense of humor. One day, while sitting for his portrait to Healy, the painter, speaking of a monk who had left the church and married, he observed, not without malice: "He has taken his punishment into his own hands."

No Excitement.

"A man doesn't seem to take any pleasure in writing letters to a woman after he has married her," said Mrs. Gloomer. "No," replied Miss Cayenne; "he seems to lose all interest when there is no possibility of his letters being read to a jury."

Catty.

"Mrs. Edgealong spoke very admiringly of you," said the woman of conciliatory disposition. "Yes," replied Mrs. Flimflam. "She is always doing that. It's a way she has of conveying an impression that she is one of my intimate friends."

Dickens' Real Home.

For 14 years Dickens made Broadstairs his principal summer home in England. London alone held a superior place in his affections. He felt his powers at their amplex when he was at the little channel coast town.

Japanese Shun Factory Life.

Of the Japanese factory laborer the average "work life" is short, very few being able to last longer than five years. Hence the rural population hesitates to migrate to the city when country employment is abundant.

Its Origin Lost.

The property of the English crown has been marked with the broad arrow from times so early that no one can now tell when it was first used for this purpose or what was its meaning.

Inoperative Adage.

"Politics makes strange bedfellows," said the ready-made philosopher. "Not out our way," rejoined Senator Sorghum. "When a man gets into politics there he doesn't have time to sleep."

The Latest Cut.

The young man was disconsolate. Said he: "I asked her if I could see her home." "Why, certainly," she answered; "I will send you a picture of it."—Ladies' Home Journal.

March of Progress.

"I see they have torn down a 20-story shack in New York to get a site to put a building on." "Yes; and they are using last year's dreadnoughts for targets."

Well Connected.

"Yes," remarked the telephone girl as she gazed out at the waves and wondered what their number was. "I am connected with the best families in our city."—Catholic Universe.

For Perfect Peace.

Nothing can bring peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles.—Emerson.

He is Immune.

The curious thing is why the hookworm never seems to attack the middleman.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Tree-Dwarfing Process.

The Japanese process of dwarfing a tree takes about ten years.

Get Out of the Rut.

"The dull man is made, not by nature, but by the immersion in a single business, and all the more if that be sedentary, uneventful, and ingloriously safe. More than half of him will remain unexercised and undeveloped; the rest will be distended and deformed by over-nutrition, over-education, and the heat of rooms."—Robert Louis Stevenson, in "The Wrecker."

A Terror.

"Some o' dese reformers," said Uncle Rashberry, "makes me think of Rastus Pinkley's dog. I says to 'im, 'Rastus, I says, 'Is dat dog good foh rats?' An' he says, 'No; he's mighty bad foh rats.' 'Does he ketch 'em an' kill 'em?' 'No,' says 'Rastus; 'he don't ketch 'em, ner he don't kill 'em. But if dey comes foolin' around him he'll mighty near skeer 'em to death.'"

The Crooked Tree.

Childish impressions are as strong as, frequently, mistaken. A thoughtful child, hearing someone wonder why a certain tree in the garden was so crooked, replied, remembering the proverb about "As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined": "I suppose somebody must have stepped on it when it was little."

Problem of Universal Peace.

War sweeps away not only some of the bravest and best of a nation, it also disposes of the offscouring of the countries at war. When, then, war ceases, a pressing problem will be how to prevent the accumulation of the dangerous classes no longer left on the battlefield.—Christian Register.

After the Robbery.

Woman (to detective)—Why, it was this way: There came a ring at the door and there stood two men who said they were from th' gas company, inspecting meters. They looked so dishonest I thought they were, so I let them in!

Many a woman has to lie down several times a day because she "feels faint" or has a "spell of dizziness." Perhaps she tries to "do something" for her trouble. Dizziness is in the head, and the head is treated. The faintness seems to be caused by the heart and the heart is attended to. But the condition grows no better. Women in such a case who have used Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription have wondered to find dizziness and faintness both cured. Why? "Favorite Prescription" is a medicine for disease of the

womanly organs! Exactly. And it cures headache, dizziness, fainting spells, backache, and many other ills, because these are caused by the derangement or disease of the delicate feminine organism. That is why "Favorite Prescription" makes weak women strong and sick women well.

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Mrs. J. F. Thal, 23 W. Thomas St., Bellefonte, Pa., says: "I am very grateful to Doan's Kidney Pills for what they have done for me. My back ached for a long time and I had severe pains in my kidneys, accompanied by headaches and attacks of dizziness. The kidney secretions caused me no end of annoyance. When my attention was called to Doan's Kidney Pills, I procured a supply at Green's Pharmacy Co., and it did not take them long to give me relief. I cheerfully recommend Doan's Kidney Pills to anyone afflicted with kidney complaint." (Statement given October 21, 1907.)

THEY NEVER FAIL.

When Mrs. Thal was interviewed on November 22, 1909, she said: "I still have unlimited confidence in Doan's Kidney Pills for whenever I have used them in the past two years, they have benefited me. You may continue to publish my former endorsement of this remedy."

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