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GOOD HORSEMANSHIP.

An Old Hunter's Illustration of the Gift of "Hands."

Your heart and your head keep up, Your hands and your knees keep down, Your knees keep close to your horse's sides And your elbows to your own.

This old bit of advice for the would be horseman is quoted by a writer in Baily's Magazine and declared to be perennially sound.

He quotes another old hunter on the subject of what he calls "the divine gift of hands" in riding. This old hunter, John Darby, used to attach two pieces of twine to the back of an ordinary chair and draw the same tighter until the chair balanced on its fore or hind legs, according to his own position.

Then when balanced he would keep it, so to speak, on the swing by gently manipulating the twine or reins he held in his hand. A rough pull would, of course, have upset the chair one way, whereas the fact of not checking it in its movements at all would have caused a total loss of control over it in the opposite direction.

"And that," when the exhibition was concluded he would add, "is hands, gentlemen."

Jogging to the covert, continues the writer, you may notice one fine horse, the owner fully equipped, throwing its head up and down like a pump handle, another sweating profusely, although the pace has not exceeded five miles an hour since it left the stable, and a third snorting and prancing about all over the place.

Why is this so? Simply because the rider of neither of them is possessed with the divine gift of "hands."

THE BEE'S STING.

An Ugly Weapon Something Like a Three Bladed Sword.

The bee's sting is made up of three separate lances, each with a barbed edge and each capable of being thrust forward independently of the others.

The central and broader lance has a hollow face furnished at each side with a rail or beading, which runs its whole length. On the back of each of the other two lances there is a longitudinal groove, and into these grooves fit the raised beadings of the central lance.

Thus the sting is like a sword with three blades—united, but sliding upon one another—the barbed points of which continue to advance alternately into the wound, going ever deeper and deeper of their own malice aforethought after the initial thrust is made. It is a device of war compared to which the explosive bullet is but a clumsy brutality. Yet this is not all.

To make its death dealing powers doubly sure this thorough minded amazon must fill the haft of her triple blade with a subtle poison and so contrive its sliding mechanism that the same impulse which drives the points successively forward drenches the whole weapon with a fatal juice.—From "The Lore of the Honey Bee," Tickner Edwardes.

The Fickle Shopper.

"That woman always keeps me guessing," said the grocery clerk as she went out. "I never can tell till the last minute what she is going to buy. Just now she priced the coffee. I gave her the prices—25 cents, 28, 30, 35, 40.

"Is your twenty-five cent coffee any good?" she asked me.

"Yes," said I; "hang up."

"Then," said she, "give me a pound of your forty cent, ground fine."—New York Press.

Probably Not.

"I hate to be poor. Now, a millionaire can walk right in and order what he wants without bothering about the price."

"He can," stated the weary salesman, "but he seldom does."—Kansas City Journal.

Every Morning.

Paul, at the age of four, was asked one morning by his papa, "What is the name of the first meal of the day?" "Oatmeal," responded little Paul promptly.—Exchange.

BEETHOVEN.

The Composer's Own Story of How He Became Deaf.

Charles Neate, on a visit to Vienna, was either commissioned by certain English authorities to induce Beethoven to visit England or was persuading him to do so on his own account, and as an allurement he spoke of the superiority of the English artists in their treatment of ear disease and held out hopes that were Beethoven to consult them he might at least find some sort of relief. Beethoven shook his head. "No," he said, "I have consulted all kinds of doctors and followed their prescriptions. I shall never be cured. I will tell you how the thing happened. I was writing an opera. I had to deal with a very tiresome and capricious tenor. I had already written two great arias to the same words, neither of which pleased him, and also a third, which he did not care for the first time he tried it, although he took it away with him. I was thanking heaven I had done with him and had begun to settle myself to something else which I had laid aside. I had hardly worked at it half an hour before I heard a knock at the door, which I recognized as that of my tenor.

"I sprang up from my table in such a rage that as the man came into the room I flung myself upon the floor, as they do on the stage" (here he threw up his arms and gesticulated in illustration), "but I fell upon my hands. When I got up I found I was deaf, and from that moment I have remained so. The doctor said I injured the nerve."—Diehl's "Life of Beethoven."

GRAFT IN RUSSIA.

Removing the Difficulties In an Army Officer's Transfer.

A young Russian officer wished to be transferred to another regiment and took his request in person to one of the lights of the Russian general staff. That powerful officer shook his head and declared the matter very difficult to arrange—almost impossible. Then his glance fell suddenly upon the shoes of the lieutenant. To the amazement of his visitor, the senior officer said that the lieutenant's shoes were not nearly good enough for an officer and that he would strongly advise him to buy new shoes of a shoemaker whose address he gave. Then, telling his visitor to return in eight days, he dismissed him. The latter was clever enough to realize that he could not return without the new shoes, so he hurried to the shoemaker. On hearing who had sent him the shoemaker said that the lieutenant could have the shoes in five days for the sum of \$250. Much astonished, the officer went to a comrade for advice. He was told to pay half of this sum at once and the rest when his shoes were finished. This the officer did, and wearing his new boots, he duly kept his appointment with the general staff officer and learned to his joy that all the "grave difficulties" in the way of his transfer had been successfully removed.

His Hobby.

One man with an odd hobby isn't a person who gets much mail, and what he has or expects to have he can keep in mind very easily. Probably he never had a letter which went astray.

Yet every time he sees in the newspapers the list of advertised mail sent out from time to time by the general postoffice in New York he turns at once to the initial letter under which his name comes and runs carefully through the list. He never yet has found any letter that might be supposed to be for him and, furthermore, hasn't found any that might be for any of his relatives.

He takes an odd pleasure in doing it, however, something with that eagerness which impels a man to grub through a packet of old letters in hopes that he may come upon some rare variety of stamp. Really, if ever he found his name in the list it probably would kill his enjoyment of the hunt forever thereafter.—New York Sun.

Anticipated Cause For Sorrow.

Ina came in from the country on her fifth birthday to visit her cousin May. At night they were put to bed early. An hour passed, when heartbreaking sobs were heard from the children's bedroom.

"What is the matter, children?" asked May's mother, entering the dark room.

"From under the bedclothes Ina sobbed out, "May won't give me any of her peanuts."

"But May has no peanuts," replied her aunt.

"I know that," sobbed Ina, "but she said if she did have peanuts she wouldn't give me any."—Delineator.

Sufficiently Occupied.

A story is told of a colonel in General Lee's division in the late civil war who sometimes indulged in more apple-jack than was good for him. Passing him one evening leaning against a tree, the general said:

"Good evening, colonel. Come over to my tent for a moment, please."

"S-s-cuse me, g-g-eneral, s-s-cuse me," replied the colonel. "It's 'bout all I can do to stay where I am."—Philadelphia Ledger.

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