

Painless Death.

"One of the most common errors," says Dr. Clark, "is the idea that pain and dying are inseparable companions. The truth is they rarely go together. Occasionally, the act of dissolution is a painful one, but this is an exception to the general rule. The rule is that unconsciousness, sleep, and death are the act. Convulsive twitches, livid features, gurgling in the throat, and similar ghastly symptoms which mark the last moment, are only exhibitions of unconscious automatic action. We test the dying by asking them if they are able to give any testimony, and that their sufferings do not increase as the termination of life approaches, but, on the contrary, grow less."

The following incident illustrates the truth of this rule, and may serve as an instance of value in confirming what has been said as to the painlessness of dissolution. A medical friend, whom I attended professionally in his illness, was a victim of the most painful disease. He was aware of its incurable character. Still, however, he preferred to live with admirable courage and unfaltering trust for the final change. In consequence of continual and severe pain, he was obliged during the last few months of his life to take opium daily. He sent for a physician after midnight. A hasty examination was sufficient to show that the end was near.

"Do these symptoms mean performance?" asked Dr. —.

"They have reached the end of the chapter," he quietly said, "how long shall I probably last?"

"That you know, I said, 'as well as any one, perhaps twenty-four hours or thirty-six hours.'

Silently needing the reply he continued:

"I am ready; but promise me this; that I shall not suffer pain if you can prevent it."

The promise was given, of course, and I went to see him every hour or two during all the time. This being done, I said to him: "One thing remains, how shall I communicate with you when, at the very close, the time comes that you cannot indicate whether you suffer or not?"

After a little talk the following signals were agreed upon: He was to indicate a negative answer, or no, by raising the forefinger; and affirmative answer, or yes, by raising the forefinger and the one next to it. One finger was no, two fingers were yes.

He had a good deal of trouble, however, to look farther than his habitual dose of opium, and was soon comparatively quiet. The pain did not return. For twelve or fifteen hours it appeared much as usual; conversed with his family friends, and was cheerful and serene. Then, as Mira's anesthesia began to act, he became dull and heavy. In answer to repeated inquiries as to pain, he constantly replied in the negative. At length he answered less than a dozen words before death, which came suddenly, only by the signal of his fingers which had been agreed upon, and by that signal he replied quickly and intelligently. Fifteen minutes after dissolution I asked him, "Do you suffer pain?" He instantly made the negative signal by raising the forefinger. After this he made no sign, but slept peacefully to the end."

A Short Story of Paris Life.

The adventures of Jean Baptiste Rousset make one of the strangest chapters in the criminal records of Paris. He was an attorney at Lille, and, having been engaged in a suit, opened an office at Fourcroy, where he was known as a cold, methodical, contentious business man and a model husband. At Brussels, where he passed four days every week, he was a wretched drunkard, a bold, bare-faced, and a "fast" man. Thus the notary lived from 1868 to 1874, when he turned his eyes toward Paris. There was a notary's office for sale at Courvoisie, a suburb outside the capital. He purchased the business and settled there. Thus began his career as a.combiner with luxury and piety. He had a splendidly furnished house, and kept open table; but he was very strict about spending and praying, and had an altar with burning tapers fitted up in his private room. The notary's wife was easily taken in, and deposited their money and securities with him to the extent of several hundred thousand francs. At Courvoisie he was remarkable for his strictness and piety, but in the eyes of his neighbors, the "worst rakes."

When his credit was exhausted he raked his brain to supply his wants. A young man named Joly, son of a policeman, was released from jail, where he had served for a year, and paid himself off as a prince of Monaco, under the name of Ben Ali Guenouar. Joly again assumed the title, and, in order the better to entrap his victims, took to himself a secretary. The person employed by this swindler was the son of a notary. For some time he was a member of the Swiss confederation. Rousset made the acquaintance of these two gentle men, and the trio formed an association for raising funds to enable Ben Ali Guenouar to recover his lost fortune. At the same time they organized a society for utilizing the sweepings of Paris. While they were making dapes of the crudelions, and amusing themselves at the public dancing-rooms and at the theatre, the notary's wife at Courvoisie was rapidly going to ruin, and at length the crash came.

Rousset, finding it impossible to hide the state of his affairs any longer, proclaimed himself bankrupt, with liabilities amounting to \$500,000 francs, and assets nil. The notary's wife, food and drink, and the number of poor persons ruined by the notary's profligacy, led to his arrest. His hearing in court was characteristic of the man; he feigned injured innocence in a manner worthy of Tartuffe. However, he was tried, condemned, and with which most French juries temper their justice, he was given the benefit of extenuating circumstances, and, although found guilty of embezzlement, he got off with five years' imprisonment.

Czar and Fisherman.

The Russian province of Simbirsk, which is now the chief sufferer by the famine that is ravaging Eastern Russia, was the scene of a very picturesque episode some time ago. In the course of one of the Czar's periodical journeys to the South, he was passing through the Volga, and Kostroma, the home of the famous "Volga fisherman," whose strange mode of life has furnished material for one of the best of Russian romances. A little below the town of Simbirsk a voice was heard coming from a boat, and a fisherman, with men in his crew alongside, A large trout was thrown to them, and the eldest, a fine-looking old gray-beard, scrambled on deck, leaving his sons in the boat. Being asked what he wanted, he replied, magnificently, that he was a chief of the tribe, esteemed a great delicacy in Russia—and said that this fish being the finest caught in the Volga that season, he had decided not to sell it, but to offer it as a present to the Emperor. "Noboditch," (the "Czar") Several officers immediately went off to summon the intended compliment to the emperor, who at once called the old man to him, and shaking him cordially by the hand, bade him sit down. The old fisherman, with his crew, should deposit upon the imperial table that very evening. The veteran muffed a few broken words of acknowledgment, and returned to his boat with the air of a man who had nothing left to desire; but the Czar, though a strict considerate, and direct, directed him to the present, took care to require it soon after with a new boat and a large stock of nets of the best quality.

In the Muschka range of the Elbe, there are two adjoining glaciers having a united length of sixty miles. Near these is a third glacier twenty-one miles long, and from one to two miles broad. The glaciers of the Alps are trifling in comparison.

What is the difference between a prominent widow and a wife who talks about her "big lord"? One husbands her means, and the other means her husband.

FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN.

Plain and Simple Rules to be Observed by Mothers During the Hot Season.

ORIGIN OF HEAT WAVES.

Wards of Heat Waves.

Boasters are cousins to liars.

Foolish four doubles danger.

Idleness is the greatest prodigality.

One day is worth two to-morrows.

That man is rich whose desires are poor.

What's done we partly may compute; but know not what's resisted.

In idle wishes fools supinely stay; there a will, and wisdom finds a way.

Motives are like harlequins; there is always a second dress beneath.

Few men have a life plan, although many a week, year, youth, or business plan.

Moderity in your discourse will give a lustre to truth, and an excuse to your error.

We should do well to take counsel from the wise and warning from the foolish.

When the character of any one is discussed, silence is the good-natured instinct.

The greatest trial of the heart is to attempt to keep a rival's failure without week triumph.

In the pursuit of virtue exercise gives strength. The more we advance the less we are.

When society begins to profit by a man's misfortune, his difficulties do not soon terminate.

How immensely would conversation be advanced if all mankind would speak only of the good.

The rich man despises those who flatter him too much, and hates those who do not flatter him at all.

There is no union between thoughts, the words and actions of the wicked; but the thoughts, words and actions of the good, all agree.

This is the law of benefits between men: the one ought to receive at once what the other deserves.

Affection makes a divorce between the soul and sin. It is not a small thing that will work sin out of the soul. It must be the spirit of burning affliction sanctified.

There is hardly any bodily blemish which will not be made tolerable; and there is no eternal grace which ill-nature or affection will not deform.

The Vermont Greenback party met in Burlington, Vt., and adjourned for three weeks to meet at St. Albans, where a State ticket will be nominated.

Several facts seem to indicate that our sun is a variable star of the same kind, though not subject to such extreme changes as Mira or Algol.

It is difficult to think that it would be able to increase in brightness, and in three hours and a half more has regained its rank as a second magnitude star, and continues to hold it for two days and a half, when it again passes through its period of maximum.

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