

A Dinner with Washington.

The dinner usually consisted of three courses—meat and vegetables, followed by some kind of pastry, and last hickory-nuts and apples, of which Washington was very fond. The meal lasted about two hours when the table was cleared off, and the leaves taken out, so as to allow it to be shut up in a circle, when Mrs. Washington presided, and from her own silver tea service served the guests with tea and coffee, which were handed round by black servants. Supper was at nine, and the table remained spread till eleven. It consisted of three or four light dishes, with fruit and walnuts. When the cloth was removed each guest in turn was called upon for a toast, which was drunk by all, followed by conversation, toasts, and general conviviality. General Chastellux, a member of the French Academy, who came out, with Rochambeau as his aide, with the rank of Major General, traveled over the country and published an account of his travels. In this he speaks of his visits to Washington, and describes these entertainments as delightful and says that "General Washington toasted and conversed all the while," and adds: "The nuts are served half open, and the company are never done eating and picking them." Washington entertained a great deal. Not only French officers but the leading statesmen of the country visited him to consult on the state of affairs. Baron Steuben's headquarters were on the Fishkill side of the river, and he frequently came over to drill the Life-Guard in military tactics, with a view of making officers of them, should the war continue. Their encampment was just back of headquarters.

On these occasions he was accustomed to dine with Washington. Once several guests were present, and among them Robert Morris, who had come up to consult with Washington about the state finances. During the dinner he spoke very bitterly of the bankrupt condition of the Treasury, and his utter inability to replenish it, when Steuben said, "Why, are you not financier? Why do you not create funds?"

"I have done all I can," replied Morris, "and it is impossible for me to do more."

"What!" said the baron: "you remain financier without finances? Then I do not think you as honest a man as my cook. He came to me one day at Valley Forge, and said, 'Baron, I am your cook, and you have nothing to cook but a piece of lean beef, which is hung up by a string before the fire. Your wagoner can turn the string, and do as well as I can. You have promised me ten dollars a month; but as you have nothing to cook, I wish to be discharged, and not longer be chargeable to you.' That is an honest fellow, Morris."

Morris did not join very heartily in the laugh that followed.

Washington was accustomed to hold a levee every week, while the officers took turns in giving evening parties; and, not to mortify those who were too poor to furnish expensive entertainments, it was resolved that they should consist only of apples and nuts. There was no dancing or amusement of any kind except singing. Every lady or gentleman who could sing was called upon for a song. Once Mrs. Knox broke over the rule, and gave what at that time was considered a grand ball, which Washington opened with the beautiful Maria Colden, of Coldenham. She and Gitty Wynkoop and Sally Jansen, the latter two living near old Paltz, were great belles in the sparsely settled country, and the three wrote their names on a window-glass with a diamond ring, and there they remain to this day.—J. T. Headley, in Harper's Magazine.

Profane Girls.

The Danville Sun speaks thus: As a representative of this paper was going down Mill street the other evening, he was greatly surprised to hear the most vulgar and profane language coming from the mouth of a girl about sixteen years of age, who was accompanied by a young man of questionable character. She was dressed well and neatly, and had the appearance of a respectable person, but from the words that we overheard we judge that she is on the road to ruin. This is not an exceptional case. There are many other girls of the same order in this town, and it is all owing to the negligence of parents in allowing their daughters to promenade through the streets at night without proper escorts. Parents would do well to watch the actions of their daughters, just budding into womanhood, more closely and thus save much pain and regret later on.

"Ah, old fellow," said an Austin gentleman, meeting another on the avenue, "so you are married at last. Allow me to congratulate you, for I hear you have an excellent and accomplished wife." "I have, indeed," was the reply; "she is so accomplished. Why, sir, she is perfectly at home in literature; at home in music; at home in art; at home in science—in short at home everywhere except—" "Except what?" "Except at home."

Points for the Unmarried.

"I understand," began the president, as the meeting was opened in due form, "that quite a number of members of this club are going to be married doornin' de summer. Dat's all right, an' I wish 'em much joy an' shall be glad to witness de obsequies of each an' every one. But I want to say a few words in general. In de first place, am you gwine to marry fur love or fur a sort of business partnership? If you answer fur love, let me warn you to be sartin dat you doan mistake de sentiment. Many a young man who thought his heart torn by love has plunged into matrimony to discover dat he simply had an admiration for a \$30 set of false teeth and a high instep. If you answer fur a sort o' business partnership, let me warn you not to expect too much. You won't love de woman an' she won't trust you. It will be a sort o' horse trade in which both parties will be cheated and both continue to be mad about it. You can get along after a fashion, and people who see her on your arm at a circus, won't know how you fight at home. If you must marry, let common sense have a show in de ransackshum. Doan go off your feet because you meet a gal who can sing like a robin, smile like a rose, and jump off a street kyar widout bodorin' de driver to stop. A wife will have much to do beside singin' an' cultivatin' dimples. If you am gwine to marry ask yerself how fur \$10 a week will go when divided up fur clothes an' pervishuns an' house rent an' fawal an' incidental. Befe you fall in love wid a gal who looks too sweet fur anything in a red plush sacque, figure on how many sich duds yer income will afford her. Befe you am broke up ober a gal who plays de pianer, talks French, paints landscapes, an' reads poetry, jist sit down an' figger how amter cook yer meat an' taters, patch yer close, darn yer socks, an' help yer make \$12 buy \$15 worth of things. Befe yer let a pair o' flashin' eyes an' a connin' dimple captivate yer, look aroun' a little an' see if de owner has got a temper like a wild-cat. Marriage am a lottery simply becase people take each odder unsight an' unseen. —Brother Gardner in Detroit Free Press.

The Pew from the Pulpit.

The sleeper. He will be there. Peradventure he leant his chin upon a cane, so that when the moment of deep and profound slumber cometh upon him, his chin slipeth off and with the bang of his head upon the pew in front of him he is awakened. Or, the slumberer may sit bolt upright and nod in time to his deep and regular breathing. Only when you cast your eyes upon him, the watchful wife at his bosom stabs him with her elbow, and he glareth on the congregation as one who should say: "He that sayeth I slept the same is a liar and a villain and a horse-thief." Or, if he be so that he leant his head back until the lid thereof falleth down between his shoulders, and he playeth phantastic tunes with his nose, inasmuch that the boys in the gallery make merry over the same, then is it hazardous to awaken this slumberer right suddenly, because he dreameth of divers things and sayeth to the tithing man who shaketh him up, "Hey? hi! ha! yes, yes, all right! I'm up." And thus is the congregation much scandalized. But if he foldeth his handkerchief over the back of the pew in front, and boweth his head devoutly upon the same, even in that moment when the text is pronounced, then will that sleeper trouble no one, but will slumber sweetly until the time of the benediction; and he will awaken refreshed and smiling, and he will extol the sermon and magnify the preacher. He is the old-timer from Sleepy Hollow.—Burdette.

Didn't Hit Him.

A tough old debtor in a town near the Hudson river entered a grocery the other morning, and stood for a long time looking at an exhibition of plug tobacco. The grocer felt certain that the old man wanted credit, and he determined to head him off. He therefore observed:

"I have to sell that tobacco for cash down!"

"You do, eh?"

"Yes, sir. Tobacco is cash on the nail."

"How's sugar?"

"That's cash."

"Tea and coffee?"

"Cash—all cash. Soap, molasses, candles, kerosene, butter, lard, potatoes, flour, rice, hams, starch—all are spot cash."

The old man stood and looked over the stock for five minutes, and then heaved a long sigh, and replied:

"Well, Mr. Waters, dat don't hit me worth a cent. I wish to get trusted for three dozen clothespins!"

The Gas-Meter Man.

"I would not believe that man under oath," said a witness, excitedly.

"Do you know him well?" was asked.

"No; I never spoke to him."

"Do you know that he ever broke an oath?"

"Well, no."

"Then why do you believe that his testimony is unreliable?"

"Because he is the man that comes around every month to inspect my gas-meter."

What It Meant.

"I never saw a man who would pick up his clothes and put them where they belonged," growled Mrs. Edsell as she slammed her husband's pants across the back of a chair.

"And I never saw a woman who wouldn't," replied his wife, "and go through all his pockets and sift out the best parts of his money and read all his business notes, and ask what 16-19-21 meant on an insurance company's memorandum."

"I don't," said she.

"You do," said he, and as he dodged the hair brush he ran into Jane with both hands full of coffee and cups and then went out to buy his breakfast at some dining room.

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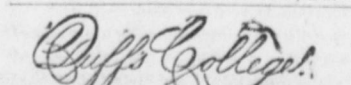
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