PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

KEEP COOL.—Those calm and rational observations to "take it coolly," and "never cry for spilled milk," are very good till they are needed. They are very salutary before the fever kindles or the milk is spilled; but in the presence of pain, or the advent of a disaster, to all but those who are gifted with fortitude by nature, or have been disciplined in the school of affliction, they are about as effectual as whistling in the teeth of a nor'wester.

Their utter impotence in the storm of passion reminds me of the directions given by a good New England deacon to his choleric son:

"Whenever you feel your danger rising," said he, "be sure to say the Lord's prayer, my son, or else the alphabet, clean through; and long before you get to the end on't, you'll be as cool as a cucumber or an iceberg. Promise me faithfully, my son."

"Yes, daddy, I promise."

Off trudged Jonathan to school, carrying his bread and meat, with a small bottle of molasses in his jacket pocket, and his late firm promise uppermost in his mind.

A boy, who bore him an old grudge, met him, and after calling him the "young deacon," and other scurrilous nicknames, caught him off his guard and threw him to the ground, tearing his jacket and breaking his molasses bottle.

Now, it is said by censorious Southerners that a Yankee will take a great many hard names with the patience of a martyr—his spirit is wordproof; but tear his clothes or cheat his belly, and he will fight to the knife.

Up jumped Jonathan, his eyes Wolfish and his lips white with rage. But "there was an oath in heaven," and he did not forget it. So he proceeded to swallow his alphabetical pills—an antidote to wrath not mentioned in the "Regimen Salernitanum, nor recognized by the British College.

"A, B, C,—you've tored my jacket—D, E, F,—you've spilt my 'lasses—G, H, I, J, K,—you're a tarnal rascal—L, M, N, O, P, Q.—I'll larn you better manners, you scamp, you—R, S, T, U, V, —I'll teach you pickin' you old wall-eye,—W, X, Y, Z. *empersand*—now I'll pound your insides out o' you, you enoroschin' willain!"

And with that, Jonathan, whose passion had been mounting, alphabetically through all his father's prescription of vowels and consonants, caught the young scapegrace, and, throwing him down, was proceeding to work off each of the deacon's twenty-six antiseptic pills in the shape of a dozen hearty fisticuffs, which, might, perhaps, have brought the poor fellow to the Omega of his days, had not the timely approach of a passenger interrupted the manipulations.—So much for rules to control the passions.

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