

THE OLD MANSION.

Mr. Mandeville had just come into his office on a blowy, blue-skyed, shimmering March day in the '30s, where the open grate fire presented an appearance of comfort, and the clerk was busily occupied...

He turned around and held out his hand. "There has been a misunderstanding all around," said he. "Natty, shall we be friends?"

The Country Schools. The country school is a unit of great value in the national problem. "How shall we improve it? In answer to this question I suggest: 1. Is not the intensity of American business life too much carried into the primary schools, drawing too heavily upon the nervous force of American childhood?"

Wearied the Mulatto. "Once," says an old California, "when Niles Searls was district judge up in Nevada and Sierra counties, the late Judge Belden and I were on opposite sides of a case which was to be argued before him. When we reached Nevada city we found the judge about to depart for Downsville on a mule-back to hold court there. He made a novel proposition that we should go over the mountain with him and argue our case on the way. We accepted the suggestion, secured horses and started off on either side of the judge's mule. I opened the case and concluded my arguments as we reached North San Juan. Then Belden replied. He was very much in earnest, gave quite warm over the case, and didn't conclude until we had passed Nigger Tent. Then Judge Searls ruminated a short time and delivered his decision just as we were about to enter the mountain pass. Belden was so much worked up about the case that he decided to make all three of us uncomfortable for a time, and not a word was spoken as we jogged along. Just as we were about to enter the mountain pass, the judge broke the strained silence with the remark: 'My mule seems very tired.' 'I should think he would,' replied Belden, 'after getting up such a decision as that.'"

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An Absent Minded Poet. Lord Tennyson is fond of not-withstanding the sentiment of "Locke's Hall." It is related that his friend Henry Irving went to dine with him. After dinner a bottle of port was brought in. The old servant to Mr. Irving's amusement, set the bottle and one glass before his master, who helped himself and talked on. Mr. Irving, who also likes port, kept his counsel and devoted himself to the claret. He did not even recall that he had been left out in the cold when the poet, having finished the bottle, quite innocently asked the wine. Mr. Irving was able to conscientiously say that he did, for the claret, as claret, was excellent. This incident can hardly happen again inasmuch as Lord Tennyson, on medical advice has it believed, dropped his after dinner port and now mimes on claret.

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