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LIFE.

BY CHARLOTTE BROWNE.

Life, believe is not a dream
So dark as angels say,
Of a little morning rain
Foretells a pleasant day.
Sometimes there are clouds of gloom,
But these are transient all;
If the shower will make the roses bloom,
O, why lament its fall?
Rapidly, merrily,
Life's sunny hours fit by,
Carelessly, cheerily,
Enjoy them as they fly!

What though death at times step in
And call us best away?
What though our sorrow seems to win
O'er hope, a heavy way?
Yet hope again elastic springs,
Unquenched, though she fall;
Still buoyant are her golden wings,
Still soaring to heaven's hall.
Manfully, fearlessly,
The day of trial bear,
For gloriously, victoriously,
Can courage quell despair!

Grandfather's Bank.

There were four of us: Beck, Wyman and fat little Bunnie, besides me. We all lived in grandfather's house. It had been a grand place in its day, and the boys and girls of long ago used to walk out in the summer twilight to admire the great wooden pineapple and its green leaves carved and colored over the front door. In our day it was an old-fashioned house in a shady city street. Mother died when Bunnie was but a baby, so grandfather took us to live with him. The story brought us, under the charge of Mrs. Stocking, and we were and wondering, stood in a row before him. He said:

"Well, well, children! Nurse, take them in to get some supper." Then he rubbed his hands and went into the garden to potter about some plants. While we were eating at a small table in the middle of an immense dining-room he came and stood in the doorway.

"Rebecca is the eldest," said he, referring to a paper in his hand. "Fifteen! Want your nurse yet?"

Beck's eyes filled with tears.

"Tut! Tut!" exclaimed grandfather, "don't cry! I can't bear crying!"

"Sir," began Beck, "recollect, I can do whatever you think best; but I'm afraid I do not know enough to take care of Bunnie all alone."

"Then nurse must stay till you do know enough. Learn as fast as you can."

He then made some agreement with Mrs. Stocking about wages, and our dear "Stockie," as we called her, after Bunnie's perversion, staid a year.

There was the great house, nothing changed for more than half a century. A wide, shady garden ran down to another street. We had free range without and within—always excepting grandfather's rooms, where we were poor even in the matter of clothes. We must look nose to work in the bank.

We grew thriver every week, and by-and-by we said he thought we would be able to bring it down to a straw a day.

Poor, boy, he did have such an appetite. All the time I had it in my heart to hope we should come upon some hidden treasure, and I scoured every corner of the house. I found old wine, a chest full of rich brocade and lace, boxes of yellow letters, but of money, not a dime.

"Do you suppose," said Beck, "that he turned his whole fortune into gold, and spent it during these years of war? I have heard of such things."

"If he did not, where is it?" said I.

When spring opened we established Wyman in grandfather's rooms. They were pleasant, and convenient for his friends, and gave him a certain dignity as the head of the house.

We had a little of anything else; we had our own family dignity. We had no servants, but we cleaned the rooms ourselves, and the whole work was completely done, all animated by the forlorn expectation of mine, of finding some hiding place, or at least a paper, to throw some glimmer of light on grandfather's past. But nothing happened. Nothing happened till months and months after. Wyman came home from the bank, sick.

Then we felt this was our first real fright and misfortune. Bunnie ran to the end of the street for a doctor, and came holding him fast by the hand. He had made a friend, and so it turned out, had we. He was a young man, I found out in the course of a few days, and he seemed wonderfully taken with us all, and what of our story he learned.

As for Wyman, he was not dangerously ill at all. Staying in bed was the best thing he could do. He needed but little medicine; we must give him nice things, talk to, and amuse him.

So we did; and getting over our anxiety, had quite a jolly week, doctor, Van Aster, and all. The doctor had never been in so old-fashioned a house. He thought it beautiful, and talked so much about the great chests of drawers the tables and the chairs, that we opened our eyes.

"And the bed!" exclaimed Wyman. "Don't you believe one mahogany tree was sacrificed to each post, to say nothing of the crowning canopy, big enough to hold a plum pudding each?"

As he spoke an idea flashed through my mind. I was always having inspirations, Beckie said. I mounted a chair, from thence to a table at the head of Wyman's bed. They were huge balbs, divided in the center by a projecting band like the equator of a globe. I began to unscrew.

"Look at that girl!" said Wye. "She is always searching for Captain Kidd's treasure. She hawks the life out of us. Now she thinks she has it in an old West India pickle jar, and now in the stuffing of a chair. Once she made me crawl over the floor to sound for a hollow place, and—good gracious, but she's found it at last!"

So I had. The top of the ball of the bed-post unscrewed. The hollow was full of gold eagles. A post spike, at Wye said.

A Physician's Rules on Health for the Married.

Rise early; the morning air is pure and cool. Take a hand bath, going over the whole person with water at its natural temperature; any one can do this who can command the use of a basin and one or two quarts of water. Use nothing but the hand; or on twice a week put a few drops of ammonia in the water to cleanse the skin, or use white castile soap—avoid all others. Do this all the year round, no matter what the temperature of the weather is; beginning now, the skin will become accustomed to it, and cold will not effect, but tone up the system, bringing the blood to the surface and preventing cold from sudden changes; besides not half the clothing will be needed. At this season do not discard flannels altogether, but wear thin ones without sleeves; the best are made from white flannel, which is not heating, and yet absorbs the perspiration, and will last for ever if properly shrunk before being made up. On rising, if feeling faint and loss of appetite, take a teaspoonful of charcoal stirred in a little water, and repeat the same at bedtime; it must be the fine willow charcoal, and to be found (with twenty-five cents) at all apothecaries. This absorbs the gas from undigested food, and sweetens the stomach and prepares it for food, and should be taken at any time when there is any unpleasant fullness in the stomach before eating. Avoid ice water, except one or two swallows; the habitual use lowers the temperature of the stomach and prevents digesting. Soda water in moderate quantities should also be avoided, certainly not more than a single glass per day. Let the diet be a generous one, but avoid mixtures; never more than two or three dishes at each meal. Pastry of all kinds should be especially avoided in hot weather. Plain yeast bread a day, with good butter, sparingly, and in hot weather with milk—when fresh—well salted; all kinds of fruit and vegetables in their season, well cooked and salted—salt always thirst when taken fresh upon food. Go slow about your business or work. Never try to do two men's work in one day. There is nothing gained by it. Keep on the shady side of the street if there is one; if not, carry an umbrella, if you can; if not, your handkerchief in the top of your hat; if in the country, green leaves. Never get in a passion, as it shortens life. Finally, make haste slowly to get rich; remember that without health riches are of no account.

Hotel Life in San Francisco.

A story is told of a San Francisco hotel, says the Helena Star, but as it is not localized, we cannot possibly saddle it on any of them. A man boarding there thought prudent to settle terms beforehand, to be sure that his money would hold out. Two dollars a day. He staid two months and sent for his bill. Carramba! the \$2 a day for board was only a small part of the items charged. Sixty dollars for fire loomed up conspicuously. Boarder demurred.

"Can't help it," says the landlord, "we can't afford to furnish the fuel and a man to attend to it for less than a dollar a day."

"All right," says boarder, "I'm willing to pay you a dollar a day for fire, but don't want to pay you any more than I've had. Now, out of all the time I've been here, it's impossible that I could have had more than half a dozen days in the whole sixty."

"Well," says the landlord, "that's not our fault; the fuel was there and a man to attend to it; you might have said if you had had a mind to do."

But the boarder remonstrated still farther. "Now, if you'll come up and look at my room, I think I can convince you that there never was any fuel there, and what is more," continued he rising to the sublimity of the situation, "there is no place to put it. If it were there, there is no fire-place in the room, and no stove. There's not even a chimney in the room for smoke to get out at, nor a stove-pipe, nor a hole to put a stove-pipe in."

The landlord "went down in his boots."

Marriage Ceremonies.

The ancient practice of marriage by capture, which was left some traces even in our customs and sports—notably in that popular game of kiss-in-the-ring, a mimic representation of the great game of marriage—finds many illustrations in Mongol life. Tubruquig, who visited the hordes of Tartary, and was entertained in the tent of the immediate successor of Yenghis Khan, described a Mongol marriage thus: "Therefore, when any man hath bargained with another for a maid, the father of the betrothed, makes him a feast; in the mean time she flies away to some of her kinsfolk to hide herself. Then the father says to the bridegroom, 'My daughter is yours; take her wheresoever you can find her.'" Then he and his friends seek her till they find her, and having found her, he takes her by force and carries her to his own house. This simple form of marriage contract was preserved among the Korak and Tchukchis, tribes of north-eastern Siberia. There the damsel is pursued by her admirer, and hides herself among the poplars, or cabins made of skin, which form the interior compartments of their dwellings. The woman kind assist her in her pretended evasion, and not till the bridegroom has caught his bride and left the impression of a finger-nail upon her tender forehead, the betrothal is complete. The analogous customs in Roman marriages here strike one with the myth of the rape of the Sabinas; but we need not go so far afield. The customs of a Welsh wedding, up to a very recent date, included a mimic pursuit of the bride by the bridegroom, both on horseback; and even in our English manner, when the bridegroom invariably goes to seek his bride on the wedding morn. But the value of woman-kind in a pastoral life, where there is so much to fear for her to do in the way of milking, cheese and butter making, and so on, brings a further element into the relationship. A price must be paid for

Wedding Companion, and the kalm or fudde portion enters largely into the question. A more modern Mongol wedding is described by Hue, that most amusing of Jesuit fathers. The religious ceremonies are those of Buddhism. The marriage is arranged by the parents, who select the dowry that is to be given to the father of the bride by means of mediators. When the contract has been concluded, the father of the bridegroom, accompanied by his nearest relatives, carries the news to the family of the bride. They prostrate themselves before the domestic altar, and offer up a boiled sheep's head, milk, and a sack of white silk. During the repeat all the relations of the bride receive a piece of money, which they deposit in a vase filled with wine made of fermented milk, we have, or had, a similar custom of hiding a ring or money in the wedding cake, the father of the bride drinks the milk and keeps the money. The lamas, or priests, fix an auspicious day, when the bridegroom sends a deputation to escort the bride. There is a feigned opposition to the departure of the bride, which they place on a horse, and led three times (note the three mystic circles) round the paternal house, and then taken at full gallop to the tent prepared for the purpose near the dwelling of her father-in-law. All the Tartars of the neighborhood repair to the wedding feast and offer their presents, which consist of beasts and eatables. These go to the father of the bridegroom, and often reappear to the groom. He has paid for the son's bride. Rather a shame, one would think, of that selfish papa, did we not reflect that he will have to support his son and daughter, or at all events set them up in sheep and cattle from his flocks and herds.—Belgravia.

Monkeys should be looked after and educated," says a savant writer; and that these animals possess a talent for mimicry which gives them the appearance of possessing brain power. Man, however, is more than a match for them, as the following story will show.

A company of Brazil hunters had a lot of little boots made, just large enough to be drawn over a monkey's foot, and filled the bottom with pitch. When they set out for the woods, and soon found themselves surrounded by the little fellows were keeping about the branches, hanging by their tails, swinging themselves easily from one tree to another, and chatting noisily together, as if making observations upon the strange visitors that had come into their quarters. The hunters quietly sat down under the trees, while the little chatterboxes were rattling on over their heads, but never for a moment removing their eyes from them. Then they placed the little boots where they could be seen, and commenced taking off their own boots. Having done this, they let them stand awhile near the little boots. All this the monkeys very closely noticed. The hunters, now taking up their bows, having carefully looked over them, drew them slowly, one after another, on their feet. Not a motion escaped the observation of the monkeys. They followed the thicket, where they could, undisturbed, and finally seated themselves as the hunters had done, and drew them off on their feet. They were no sooner out of sight than down from the branches dropped the monkeys, they looked at the boots took them up, smelt of them, and finally seating themselves as the hunters had done, drew them off on their feet. As soon as they were off, they placed the boots where they could be seen, and commenced taking off their own boots. Having done this, they let them stand awhile near the little boots. All this the monkeys very closely noticed. The hunters, now taking up their bows, having carefully looked over them, drew them slowly, one after another, on their feet. Not a motion escaped the observation of the monkeys. They followed the thicket, where they could, undisturbed, and finally seated themselves as the hunters had done, and drew them off on their feet. They were no sooner out of sight than down from the branches dropped the monkeys, they looked at the boots took them up, smelt of them, and finally seating themselves as the hunters had done, drew them off on their feet.

Hints as to Beauty.

There is nothing more unfavorable to female beauty than late hours. Women who, either from necessity or choice, spend most of the day in bed, and in the night in work or dissipation, have always a pale, faded complexion and dark rimmed wearied eyes. Too much sleep is almost as hurtful as too little, and is sure to give the person unwholesome fat. Diet, also, has a marked influence upon personal beauty. A green and excessive indulgence in eating and drinking is fatal to the female charms, especially when there is great tendency to "making flesh." Regularity of time in the daily repast and good cooking are the best means of securing not only good health, but good looks. The appetite should never be wasted during the intervals between meals on pastry, confectionery, or any other tickler of the appetite, which gratifies the taste, but does not support the system. Exercise is, of course, essential to female beauty. It animates the whole physical life, quickens the circulation of the blood, heightens the color, develops the growth, and perfects the form of each limb and the entire body. It also gives beauty and grace to each movement.

Diverting Drink.

One of the hottest regions of the earth is along the Persian Gulf, where little or no rain falls. At Behreha the arid shore has no fresh water; yet a comparatively numerous population continues to exist there, thanks to copious springs which burst forth from the bottom of the sea. The fresh water is got by diving. The diver, sitting in his boat, winds a great goat-skin bag around his left arm, the hand grasping his mouth; then he takes in his right hand a heavy stone, to which is attached a strong line, and thus equipped he plunges in and quickly reaches the bottom. Instantly opening the bag over the strong jet of fresh water, he springs up in the ascending current, at the same time closing the bag, and is helped aboard. The diver, sitting in his boat, winds a great goat-skin bag around his left arm, the hand grasping his mouth; then he takes in his right hand a heavy stone, to which is attached a strong line, and thus equipped he plunges in and quickly reaches the bottom. Instantly opening the bag over the strong jet of fresh water, he springs up in the ascending current, at the same time closing the bag, and is helped aboard. The diver, sitting in his boat, winds a great goat-skin bag around his left arm, the hand grasping his mouth; then he takes in his right hand a heavy stone, to which is attached a strong line, and thus equipped he plunges in and quickly reaches the bottom. Instantly opening the bag over the strong jet of fresh water, he springs up in the ascending current, at the same time closing the bag, and is helped aboard.

Taxation in Persia.

The system of taxation in one of the most onerous that can be imagined, and its burden is placed with blighting incidence wholly upon the producing classes. For each plowing bullock the poor peasant pays nearly the value of the animal yearly. He contributes, in addition, to the government treasury, he is subject to a poll tax; now and then he is called upon to protect his village against an attack by robbers, and in case of defeat must submit to be spoiled of any portable property he possesses. If there is a highway robbery within the boundaries of his village, he must pay his share of the losses incurred, which is not at all certain, and the empty pocket of the plundered man. He can never calculate the amount of his taxation, for while the Governor of this year may be lenient, his successor next year will be rapacious. As a rule, the Governors purchase their office, and sometimes, over and above the sum which they are obliged to return as revenue, make annual presents to the Shah. To repay themselves for this they exact from the district a tax on every article that the district exports, and a Governor is successful or not, from his own point of view, in reference to the sum, in excess of the assessed amount, which he or his vizier (for the greater Governors rarely do this themselves) can force from the peasants and from the traders in the bazaars of the towns. We were unable to present the letter which the Sadr Azem had given us to the Governor of Bushire, because a few days before our arrival his Excellency had started with a large number of soldiers upon a tax-gathering expedition. The crown of a most iniquitous system is the exemption of the mollas and in fact of all who are not engaged in trade, commerce, or agriculture. It follows from this system that men hoard money to the utmost of their power and conceal it, and because a few days before our arrival his Excellency had started with a large number of soldiers upon a tax-gathering expedition. 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