

## A FARMHOUSE MYSTERY

FATHER IMPRISONED SON FROM  
BABYHOOD UNTIL MANHOOD.

Taught Nothing, Ignorant of Right and  
Wrong—Discovered During Funeral of  
Father, Who Sought to Abandon  
Mother—Speaks Only a Few Words.

"The astonishing case of a man absolutely without moral sense, without any conception of right or wrong, without any knowledge of the appearance of man or of the animals of the sky, has been engaging the attention of scientists, educators and philanthropists at St. Joseph, Mo.," says a St. Joseph correspondent.

"A young man twenty-three years old, presumably the son of Jacob Dietrich, was found immured in a stone cell, where he had been kept ever since he was born.

"Both in mind and body he was found to be far less developed than any common domestic animal. He had no idea that it was wrong to hurt or kill any human being or animal. He had no idea that it was wrong to steal or to take anything that pleased him. In short, he had no moral sense.

"Even his physical senses were largely undeveloped. When a lighted candle was shown him he uttered a childish cry of pleasure, and seized the flame with his hand. It was some time before he realized that it pained him.

"He could hardly walk, and he could not run at all. When he attempted to do the latter he fell down. He had an unconquerable aversion to sitting in a chair. He insisted in sprawling on the floor.

"The appearance, probably the very existence of animals was unknown to him. When a pretty little kitten was held up to him he jumped back in fright. When the kitten lifted up a paw playfully the man ran away and fell down.

"He could speak only one phrase distinctly, and that was 'Oh, John! Oh, John!' He is always repeating this. It is supposed that he overheard his father using these words. He could repeat some of the sounds used by the farmers in calling home their cattle, these having been loud enough to reach him in his cell. He could also imitate some of the noises made by animals, but he had no knowledge of the animals themselves.

"He was very much pleased with a child's rattle, a drum and some other things, that were given him to play with. Those that made a noise pleased him most.

"Several clever men and women are now trying to educate him. He makes remarkable progress in some things, and remarkably little in others. It is not likely that he will ever be a normal man.

"The striking similarity of this case to the historic one of Kaspar Hauser has impressed many people. Kaspar Hauser, it may be recalled, was found at Nuremberg, Bavaria, in 1828. He had no speech, no knowledge of the outside world, no recollection of his previous life. Investigation showed pretty clearly that he was the son of the Grand Duke Karl of Baden, who had been kidnapped by his uncle, the Margrave Ludwig, and kept in an underground cell all his life. The kidnapper secured the throne.

"The exact reason why the Missouri unfortunate was immured is not yet known. It seems that his father, Jacob Dietrich, came from Germany and married at St. Joseph. After a time his first wife followed him from Germany and her child was born in his house. She died, and out of resentment against the mother, it is said, he shut the poor creature up.

"On the high hills that overlook the Missouri River in a district known as 'Cracker's Neck' stands the old farmhouse in which Dietrich lived for more than forty years. It is in an isolated place and there is no public road near it. The heavy growth of trees was never cut from the hills surrounding the Dietrich home and for months at a time nobody went near the old farmhouse. During his lifetime Dietrich had no close friends, and few associates.

"The old man died a few weeks ago, and neighbors went to his house to attend the funeral. A dozen men and a few women went there for the purpose of rendering any assistance possible in giving their eccentric neighbor a decent burial. It was then that the discovery was made that Dietrich had a prisoner in the stone room that adjoined the old farmhouse on the rear.

"The prisoner was taken out. He was a man twenty-three or twenty-four years old. His appearance was more like that of a wild animal than a man. The abject terror that seized this poor creature when he beheld the faces of the men who found him was a spectacle that simple farmers will never forget.

"The creature found in the stone room back of Dietrich's house had long matted hair on his head, and a beard that covered the lower part of his face. He was dressed in cast off clothing, all in rags. The limbs and body were unnatural in their growth. At first he crouched in a corner and whined like a frightened animal, but in time he stood face to face with the first of his kind that he had ever seen.

"There is no doubt that he had been a prisoner since early childhood, and, perhaps, since birth. Nobody in the neighborhood had ever seen the young man before, and older people did not know that there was ever a child at Dietrich's house since the one born twenty-three years ago, of which they had heard. They loved the child long since dead and buried, or sent away to some of Dietrich's relations in Germany.

"The stone room stands on sloping ground at the rear of the house, but

the floor of the prison is on a level with that part of the house in which Dietrich lived and is connected with it by a passage leading from his room. Through a slit in the heavy oaken door Dietrich evidently passed food and water to the prisoner. The cell is seven by nine feet.

"The prison room contained no article of furniture. A heap of straw and rags in the corner served as a bed. The key of the lock on the only door leading into the room was found in Dietrich's room.

"The finding of the prisoner was accidental and had it not been that two of the men at the funeral went into Dietrich's room the man in the stone prison might have been left to starve to death. These two men heard a sound like the whining of a dog that appeared to be very close to them. The body of Dietrich lay in the front part of the house and the small procession was almost ready to start to the graveyard with it. Seeing a key hanging on the wall and noticing the heavy door leading into the stone room one of the men unlocked it and swung the door open.

"Before them stood the poor fellow, apparently in a starving condition. The prisoner had not been fed for many days, during the last illness and after the death of Dietrich.

"A brother of Dietrich, in Texas, had been notified of his death, and arrived a few days after the funeral. He believes that the young man yet acquires a good education. He has a subject for physical and psychological study such as has seldom been known in the world before, and has expressed his determination to right the wrongs committed by his brother so far as may lie in his power."

### She Made Her Wants Known.

A well-known citizen of Milwaukee who resides just beyond the confines of the city, where he is able to combine the utilities of urban life with his suburban surroundings, recently engaged a French maiden of uncertain years and more uncertain antecedents as a domestic in his family. And then he strutted before his friends in the proud consciousness of having a French cook at his country villa.

This well known citizen also has a son, a boy of eighteen; one of those rollicking, good-natured fellows, full of fun and laughter. Recently his strapping boy arose at 6 a. m. to do the chores, curried the horse and fodder the cows, when he was met upon the threshold of the kitchen by the French cook, who, with a tin kettle in one hand, and a tablespoon in the other, began to rattle the taware and exclaim:

"Coffa!" "Coffa!"

"What's the matter with you?" exclaimed the boy in astonishment.

But the answer came back in measured tones, with tinkling taware as an accompaniment:

"Coffa!" "Coffa!"

When the boy had about concluded that the woman had lost her reason and become a lunatic of the most dangerous class, and was making tracks to get out of the way, she squatted down in the corner, jumped up and danced about the room with the accompaniment:

"Clack-clack-clack! Clack-clack-clack! Clack-clack-clack!"

Then he grasped the situation in all its fullness of detail.

The French cook wanted an egg to settle the coffee. And she got it—Milwaukee Sentinel.

### Gypsy Knowledge of the Future.

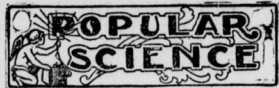
"It seems but little short of the marvellous," says the writer of a most interesting article on Gypsies, in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, "to have the hidden history of one's life read so perfectly by utter stangers, but the means by which they make it appear that they do so is not entirely palmistry, which, regarded as a science, has little part in Gypsy fortune telling. Romany's gather every possible bit of information about the inhabitants of the neighborhood where they happen to be sojourning, by judicious questioning of servants and neighbors, and heard the treasurers in their marvelous memories. Add to this the fact that their naturally keen powers for observation have been trained for centuries to read character and life-history from the face, that certain generalities always obtain with certain types of hands and faces, that general facts may apply to any one's past history, and that only 'what comes to pass' is remembered out of the mass of information given one, and you have the key to their apparent uncanny knowledge of past and present."

### The Americanizing of Scotland.

"The climax of all the Americanism we saw in Europe came on the last morning of our stay in Edinburgh, when we went to the Castle at the proper hour to see the famous Black Watch drill," writes "The Dominic" in the Ladies' Home Journal. "When the soldiers lined up on the east side of the Plaza where there were just 300 Scots, while on the west side stood full 600 American tourists to watch them. Instead of dirks and halberds, which we went to see, we noticed rifles made in Springfield. We watched them drill with tactics adopted from West Point, and when we looked for bagpipes, and listened to be assured that 'The Campbells are Coming,' a brass band wearing uniforms cut in New York, and playing on instruments bought in Chicago, struck up one of Sousa's latest marches."

### A Remarkable Beard.

Montlucan has an old gentleman of seventy-six with a beard ten feet ten and one-half inches long, and a mustache stretching over more than a yard and a half.



The rotation of the earth determines the length of the day, and may be regarded as one of the most important elements in astronomical science. It serves as a universal measure of time, and forms the standard of comparison for the revolutions of the celestial bodies, for all ages past and to come.

It is proposed to project a thirteen-inch stream of light from the sea to the sky, which will be visible forty miles away. The electric lights on the lightship now on Diamond shoal can only be seen, thirteen miles. The searchlight apparatus will be arranged between two mast-heads, and the rolling of the ship will produce a distinctive wavering light to be reflected from the sky.

Remarkable results have been attained in the explorations at Abydos during the past year. The consecutive order of seventeen kings has been established and the foundations of Egyptian history settled on a firm basis. The historic character of King Mena has been demonstrated and a long line of a dozen kings after him has been fixed. The explorers have seen and handled the gold, crystal and ivory with his name and engraving and even the kings preceding him are now better known than half the Saxon kings of England.

The United States Geological Survey has discovered that abundant waters flow beneath the vast lava-plains of southern Idaho. Streams pouring down from the mountains disappear on reaching the previous surface of the plains, but far down the walls of canyons. Some of the springs, according to Professor Israel C. Russell, "are literally large enough to float a steamboat." The Geological Survey is locating these hidden streams in order to determine where deep wells may best be driven to fertilize the new drought stricken plains that cover the region of lost waters. Somewhat similar conditions exist in parts of Colorado, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

Professor Scott, of Princeton, calls the attention to the fact that whereas different kinds of birds sing the songs peculiar to their respective species, certain individuals develop varieties of their own, so that the close listener can recognize their personal song. In illustration, Professor Scott tells the life story of two Baltimore Orioles, taken by him from the nest of their birth when they were about five days old and brought up in captivity. They developed a novel method of song, and four other young orioles, afterward "isolated from wild representatives of their own kind and associated with these two who had invented the new song, learned it from them and never sang in any other way."

The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has recently carried out a series of experiments to determine the difference of longitude between the lightship on Nantucket Shoals and the shore, forty-eight miles distant. It was possible to secure chronographic records of the chronometer beats and the signals from the ship and to eliminate the lag of the instruments by causing the chronometer break to excite the coherer and obtain new chronographic records. Time observations were made and the first determination of longitude by wireless telegraphy were obtained. (The first determination of longitude by land telegraphs was made between Washington and Baltimore in 1844, and the method is today specifically named "American"). For work among islands like those of the Alaskan archipelago the new wireless methods are likely to be of great value.

### Erratic Squaw Domestic.

Carson, the capital of Nevada, is probably the only city in the country where the "hired girl" is a squaw. These squaws are all designated by the handy cognomen "Sally." "Sally" opens the kitchen door without the formality of a knock, and says "Mahayie (woman), you want work done?" Or, simply, "Me heap bogadi," which signifies that she is very hungry and desires to work for a meal.

If you are an Eastern woman this is apt to frighten you into fits the first time. But after a bit you welcome Sally gladly, and set her to scrubbing the floor or washing the dishes or clothes. Sometimes there is a Sally who will come regularly for a weekly wash day; but generally they will work only when they are driven by hunger.

The squaws never stay in Carson over night, and no Eastern woman fails to look from her window at sunset and watch them slowly making their way along the trail in Indian file to their homes in the forest—Washington Star.

### Odoriferous Plants.

Out of the 4200 species of plants gathered and used for commercial purposes in Europe, 420 have a perfume that is pleasing and enter largely into the manufacture of soaps, and sachets. There are more species of white flowers gathered than of any other color—1124. Of these 187 have an agreeable scent, an extraordinary large proportion. Next in order come yellow blossoms, with 951, seventy-seven of them being perfumed. Red flowers number 823, of which eighty-four are scented. The blue flowers are of 594 varieties, thirty-four of which are perfumed, and the violet blossoms number 808, thirteen of which are pleasantly odoriferous.—London Family Doctor.

## THE WAY TO ADVERTISE.

Some Points Well Worth Keeping in Mind.

Advertising is not a minor detail of business, says the Waterbury (Conn.) Republican, nor may it be attended to perfunctorily at odd moments. On the contrary, it is of the utmost importance, and ingenuity and attention are necessary in the composition and placing of every business announcement. The "ad." is the merchant's address to the public, and as such it should be prepared.

Advertisements must not be slurred in the process of preparation. As a prominent writer says: "Advertisements are statements of fact made attractive." Consequently, the matter in them must be striking to the eye, convincing to the reason and always fresh in appearance.

The shrewd advertiser's foremost desire is to attract notice by an attention-compelling arrangement of ideas and type. Next, what he has to say must be said with eloquence and convincing logic.

The matter of the merchants' address must be changed frequently, else it becomes tiresome by reiteration and turns aside the attention which it is its province to attract. Freshness in an advertisement is as necessary as in the goods offered for sale.

Above all, advertising must be continuous. The great secret of success in business lies not in advertising when everybody wants to buy, but in inducing the public to purchase when they are less willing.

The tactless business man quits advertising at the close of an unusually brisk business period, such as the Christmas holidays, but the experienced merchant does not interrupt the continuity of his address to the public, knowing that with the close of the active purchasing season the attraction of customers becomes more difficult. He advertises then with as much vigor as during the holiday rush, and he gets the patronage the lack of which the non-advertiser mourns.

The merchant who achieves success advertises extensively, continuously and with discrimination.

### His System Failed.

Doctor Saxton was a very learned man, with thin skin that reddened on the slightest provocation, and very light—not to say white—eyelashes. In the hard days immediately after the Civil War, in the absence of other employment, the good doctor took charge of the village school, and was soon nearly beside himself with what seemed the impossible task of getting little Willie Baxter to learn his abc's. Finally Dr. Saxton resorted to a system of mnemonics original with himself, and began with what he thought were the easiest letters.

"Now, Willie," he said, "when you come to this long, straight letter, just think of your eye. Remember, now, that is 'I.'"

But when Willie came back to the doctor's knee an hour later he had forgotten.

"What is that, my son?" inquired the doctor.

"Oh, yes, you do. What is it?" encouragingly.

"I do know," with mournful conviction.

"What do you see here?" asked the doctor, pointing his forefinger close to his own eye and involuntarily shutting and squinting that organ as he did so. Willie looked earnestly and some longer than seemed necessary. "I don't see nothing," he at last whispered out, "but six little white hairs."—Woman's Home Companion.

### Spain's Friendliness to the United States.

"No. On the contrary, I find the American people more hospitable than ever since the war with my country."

This was the reply Mr. P. N. Gonzalez, of Jerez, Spain, made to the inquiry as to whether or not he found a sentiment against Spain, her goods and her people since 1898.

"I find the people of the United States not only courteous to a marked degree," continued Mr. Gonzalez, "but anxious, it seems, to hear of Spain, for you know we have the most interesting of all countries. As to the war, it is all over with us. We Spaniards are hot-headed and fight quickly, but it is forgotten in a day. To-morrow we make up and are friends again. It was, of course, unfortunate that we had a war with Uncle Sam; we had always got along so well with him; but now that it is over I believe we are glad at the way it terminated. We only held on to Cuba so long because of mere sentiment; it was like pulling eye teeth to let the last of our Western possessions go, when at one time we had owned nearly all of the Western Hemisphere."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Law Forbids Golf Playing.

Scotland, as everybody knows, is the land where golf originated and the land where it most flourishes. But if the law were strictly enforced north of the Tweed it would go hard with the players of the royal game in "Bonnie Scotland." Golf players there may not know it, but they are liable to a sentence of death for their indulgence in their favorite sport. Technically this is literally a fact. In ancient times, when Scotland always had work for her soldiers to do, all young men were required to perfect themselves in archery. They preferred to play golf, and so serious a rival did the game become that it was for a time suppressed and made a capital offense. That curious law never has been repealed, and may still be found on the statute book. There seems to be no record, however, of the law ever having been enforced.

## Temperance Topics.

### Men Who Think Point Out the Value of Total Abstinence.

A White Night in Sleepy Hollow. The old Dutch church that Irving loved. Shows all its windows thick with frost. Deep are the snows upon its roof. Its ancient groves in drifts are lost; The icy pond and ruined mill!

The bridge beyond the willows, where The headless horseman rode by night, Is built of carved marble now. The winding road is smoothly white. The bushes sheeted specters pale. In Sleepy Hollow's haunted vale.

But in the woodland's snowy heart A little brook I cannot see. Among the stilly frozen reeds Still keeps its merry spirit free. And with a steadfast faith sublime Sings of the joys of summertime. —Minna Irving, in the Era.

### Liquor in Various Countries.

Very much has been written on the use of alcohol in England, France, Germany and the United States, but for the most part by persons more or less biased in their opinions. Very often such papers have been inaccurately written by persons entirely inexperienced in dealing with statistical matters, and hence they have very little value to those interested in the real facts. In the Fortnightly Review for January, 1902, a professional statistician with more than twenty years' experience, gives a short paper on this subject, with a graphic representation of the condition of the drink question in these countries. He finds that there has been a steady increase in drink consumption per head of population during each five-yearly period from 1886 up to the present date. Comparing the period 1886-1900 and the period from 1886 to 1890 he finds that the percentage of increase has been smaller in Great Britain than in any of the other three countries, while Germany and France have had the largest relative increase. In the United States, however, the increase of 20 per cent in the consumption of alcoholic liquors per head of population is largely due to an increase in beer drinking, while the consumption per head of wine and spirits has declined.

The current criminal statistics for England record a material increase in prosecutions for drunkenness during recent years, somewhat proportional to the increase in consumption of liquor. The French drink more spirits, more wine and have a larger total consumption per head than any of the other three countries. Schooling notes as a most striking fact that the consumption of liquors in the United States is very much lower than in any of the other countries. The American total per head is less than one-half of the total consumption per head in any of the other three countries.

The superior sobriety of the American workman, as compared with Englishmen has often been noticed, and observation in social grades higher than that of the artisan tends to show that American superiority in this respect is a general superiority not confined to workmen only. Schooling believes that the developed alertness and prompt energy of the American may, it is quite likely, be due in some part to this relative abstinence from alcoholic drink.

### Drink for Old Age.

Here is a saying of one wise man of the Talmud: "Until forty years of age, eating is best; after forty years drinking is best."

A man in Maine has celebrated his one hundred and fifth birthday. He announces that he is a moderate whisky drinker.

A great many immoderate whisky drinkers will probably hold up this very old person as proof that there is no harm in their whisky habit.

A man looking for an excuse for drinking can always find one. There is not much use in arguing with him. It is hard enough to appeal successfully to a man who actually wants to stop drinking.

We shall do no arguing, but point out:

First, there is wisdom in the Talmudic saying, at least to this extent: In mature years, and especially in very old age, stimulants taken very moderately are usually beneficial; sometimes they are absolutely necessary.

But stimulants are useful in old age only when their use follows upon a temperate youth.

In other words, the young man who leaves whisky alone and leaves alone all other strong drinks is saving up for his old age a remedy that will be useful, that will help him over many years.

It is quite certain that the man in Maine who was a moderate whisky drinker at the age of 105 took little or nothing to drink in his early youth. Such good effect as stimulants can have upon the heart when it becomes weak through old age cannot be secured by the man who has discounted the future by early indulgence. Let this be held in memory.

### The Action of Alcohol on Muscles.

At a recent meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences F. S. Lee and W. Salant presented a paper detailing the results of some recent investigations they had been carrying on jointly to ascertain the effects of alcohol on muscles. It appears, according to the paper, that they used pure ethyl alcohol and the isolated muscles of the frog in their experiments, and found that the muscles which had absorbed a moderate quantity of alcohol would contract more quickly, relax more slowly, perform a greater number of contractions in a given time and become fatigued less rapidly than muscles without alcohol, the effect being most pronounced in from one to three-quarters of an hour after the liquid

had been absorbed. As to whether the alcohol exerted this influence upon the muscle substance itself or on the nerves within the muscle they were unable to determine, nor could they make out whether it acted as a food or in some other manner. In large quantities, however, they found it to be detrimental, diminishing the whole number of contractions, inducing early fatigue and even abolishing the contractile power altogether. As yet they have not studied the after-effects.

### Expensive Temperance Work.

It is a most expensive temperance work that the London county council is at present carrying out, but it is not designated as such, nor is the general public well aware of the fact. Yet within the last three years the London county council has devoted more than \$1,250,000 to the practical work of temperance.

It is one of the consequences of the extensive improvements being made in London at present. When acquiring property for the necessary widening of different streets, many public houses, with licenses and good will, come into the possession of the council. These properties are very valuable, but the council, instead of renewing them, for premises in the neighborhood, is deliberately giving them up, seeing, at the same time, that no new licenses for these localities are issued.

In this way the number of public houses in London has been diminished by 103, which were valued at \$1,372,750.

### Lessons for Barrooms.

"The first thing the man behind the bar teaches the man in democracy," said the Rev. Mr. McNutt, addressing the Woman's Christian Temperance union in Boston.

He told of seeing subway laborers in this city being driven off the steps of a fashionable meal on which they sat to eat their midday meal, while, on the other hand, he had seen barkeepers treat them politely, and a sign in front of a saloon invited all to enter and get "a free hot lunch."

The vieux marcheur will smile at this somewhat artless laudation of the "barkeep," but there is no denying the fact that many fastidious church folk forget St. Paul's admonition that highest education, unstinted almsgiving and faith sufficient to move mountains profit nothing without that benevolent kindness of disposition which is ambiguously translated into our language as "charity."—New York Herald.

### Some Reasons for Temperance.

What does a young man lose by not drinking spirits?

In the first place it is necessary to cultivate the taste in the beginning. Why cultivate it at all?

In the second place, admitting all the usual sophistry about moderate drinking, whisky means the loss of time, loss of money, loss of clear mental thought.

There is boasting, lying, vacillation, procrastination, self-delusion in every glass of spirits.

How many millions of men—on their dying bed—have wished fervently and mournfully that they had never tasted spirits.

Did any dying man ever regret a temperate life?

### Alcohol and Insanity.

In speaking of the increase in the number of cases admitted during the year 1900 to the Royal Edinburgh asylum, the physician superintendent, Dr. Clouston, in his annual report was unable to avoid the conclusion that this was due to a large extent to the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants during times of prosperity, attended with brisk trade and high wages. Dr. Clouston makes an earnest plea for legislative or state means for the diminution of alcoholism.

He rightly contends that it is an irrational application of the doctrine of liberty to grant to every man the inalienable right to render himself a burden to others and a source of degradation and danger to the community.—Ram's Horn.

### Strong Drink a Mockery.

Remember, above all, that the truest thing ever said of strong drink is that it is a "mockery."

Every sensation that comes from whisky is a mockery. Every promise based on whisky is mockery. The strength of whisky is mock strength. The friendships of whisky are mock friendships. How often have you seen such hideous mockeries of friendships—drunken men with arms around each other protesting friendship eternal?

Whisky mocks hideously all the sacred feelings in life and it destroys them all.

### Would Eliminate Private Gain.

Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, British Secretary of State for the Colonies, proposed government control of the liquor traffic as the safest way of minimizing its evils. He suggests the total elimination of any idea of private gain in the retail sale of liquor. Mr. Bright, Mr. Forster, Mr. Gladstone and many other leading English statesmen have advocated the same idea. It is substantially the Gotherburg system applied to English conditions.

### Library of Women's Works.

A library of 18,000 volumes, all written by women, was left by Madame Kaissavov, who died recently in St. Petersburg.