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FATE.

A little brook on a hillside
Once longed for the distant sea;
In its summer dreams there were strange, bright gleams
Of waves that were wild and free.
But the bold sun glittered its waters o'er,
And the little brook was seen no more.

Then the flowers mourned on the hillside
For the dream that never could be;
Yet far away there were clouds that day
That shadowed the heaving sea,
And lo! 'mid the thunders wild alarms,
The rain drops slipped to the ocean's arms.

In every passionate longing
That burns 'neath the vaulted skies,
Though it still may sleep or be hidden deep,
The germ of fruition lies;
And the path, tho' strange, and the way unknown
Is leading ever unto our own.

There are depths which we may not fathom,
There are heights which we cannot see;
In some unknown time, or undreamed of clime,
Who knows what is yet to be?
The shuttle swings, but the threads lie straight,
In and out of the web of fate.

—Washington Post.

BOW LEGS EASILY CURED.

Breaking the Limbs Unnecessary if a Child Can Go Barefooted.

Mrs. Bassett had spent the first five years of her married life in England and when she returned to her native town she brought, together with the twins and a baby girl, a great many novel ideas.

The twins were 3 years old—fine, sturdy little fellows, with rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes, straight limbed and vigorous as young athletes. The Bassetts were "well to do," and it was, therefore a matter of great surprise to the village in general, and to the young mothers in particular, to see the infant Bassets running about from morning till night sans shoes and stockings.

It was soon ascertained that the baby girl who was just beginning to walk was also destitute of these two articles of attire, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children had serious thoughts of calling upon Mrs. Bassett and remonstrating in a body with that derelict matron.

But it was the general opinion that if Mrs. Bassett chose to be unconventional she had reasons of her own for conduct which might be worthy of consideration, and it was finally decided that a committee of two—ladies of an inquiring turn of mind—should visit the Bassett household and furnish forthwith to the community at large a report of the various heresies which had been put into practice.

Mrs. Bassett received her visitors cordially and smiled pleasantly when informed of the nature of their call.

"I am very willing to talk about my barefooted babies," she said frankly, for, to tell the truth, I am rather proud of them. When the twins were babies," she continued, seating herself in a low chair, "they were treated, I suppose, very much like other children. They lived out of doors a great deal and were healthy and strong, but soon after they began to walk I noticed in them a decided tendency to 'toe in.' I was horrified, for if there is one thing I detest it is a bow legged man, and here were my little men of a year and a half actually setting out on the crooked journey of the nursery jingle.

"My friends all said that most children were bow legged at first and all that would come right itself in the course of time.

"I waited with considerable impatience, but saw no signs of improvement. Finally I consulted a doctor and asked him if I must put the two pairs of legs in irons.

"'Irons!' shouted the doctor. 'Fiddlesticks! Take off their shoes and stockings. Their muscles have probably been cramped and weakened already and irons will only increase the trouble. Off with their shoes.'

"'But won't they take cold?' I ventured to humbly inquire.

"'Cold!' he said. 'Why should they? You don't keep their hands tied up, do you? If your house is fairly comfortable and they are active and vigorous their feet will be as warm as their hands. At first perhaps they had better wear shoes out of doors, but in a short time they can dispense with them even there, except, of course, in severe weather.'

"I was not altogether convinced, but I thought the experiment worth trying. Another suggestion which the doctor gave me I also found a most useful one. He advised me to let the boys walk up hill, and when they could not be out of doors to have an inclined plane arranged in the house for them to practice on. In the effort to walk up a steep incline one naturally throws the feet outward.

"'Let your boys try it for awhile at any rate,' said my good doctor. 'Don't cramp their feet and I will wager that nature will give them as straight legs and as firm muscles as anybody need wish for.'

"I have followed my wise doctor's advice; the results you can see for yourself," added the young mother, proudly, as her two barefooted boys came running into the room.

"But your baby, does she actually go barefooted, too?" asked one of the visitors. "Yes, indeed," replied Mrs. Bassett. "She has never worn a shoe in her life. When she goes out for an airing she wears warm woolen socks, for until she can walk she cannot of course take sufficient exercise to keep her feet warm. But in the house she is as barefooted as the boys. She is just beginning to get on her feet and her little bare toes are almost as useful to her as fingers. They have saved her many a fall."—Home Maker.

The inquiry made by the administration in order to carry out the new law giving certain advantages to fathers of more than seven children, has shown that in France at present there are 2,000,000 households in which there has been no child; 2,500,000 in which there was one: 2,300,000, two children; 1,500,000, three; about 1,000,000, four; 550,000, five; 330,000, six, and 200,000 seven or more.—Lyon Medical.

A silk handkerchief, so often recommended for wiping spectacles or eyeglasses, is not good for this purpose, as it makes the glasses electrical, and causes the dust to adhere to them.

THE EYES OF FAMOUS MEN.

Burns, Hawthorne and Shelley Were All Remarkable for Their Eyes.

Emerson used to say that each man carried in his eye the exact indication of his rank in the immense scale of men. Another close observer of human nature asserts that persons with prominent eyes are found to have great command of words and to be ready speakers and writers. A third holds the theory that the prevailing color of the men of genius is gray.

Col. Higginson speaks of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "gray eyes," while F. H. Underwood "who once studied them attentively, found them mottled gray and brown, and indescribably soft and winning." Elsewhere we find it asserted that "no finer eyes had appeared in the literary circles of Great Britian since Burns' time than those of Hawthorne."

Shelley's eyes are always spoken of as magnificent, and fully indicative of his wayward genius. One writer describes them as "large and animated, with a dash of wildness in them;" another speaks of them as "such a pair of eyes as are rarely seen in a human or any other head, intently blue, with a gentle and lambent expression, yet wonderfully alert and engrossing." Medwith, while writing of Shelley's appearance, refers to his blue eyes, "very large and prominent. They were at times, when he was abstracted, as he often was in contemplation, dull, and, as it were, insensible to external objects; at others, they flashed with the fire of intelligence." Tom Moore's eyes were "as dark and fine as you would wish to see under a set of vine leaves."

Of Coleridge it is reported: "His forehead was prodigious—a great piece of placid marble; and his fine eyes, in which all the activity of his mind seemed to concentrate, moved under it with a sprightly ease, as if it were pastime to them to carry all that thought." Another friend of his writes: "The upper part of Coleridge's face was excessively fine. His eyes were large, light gray, and prominent, of liquid brilliancy, which some eyes of fine character may be observed to possess, as if the orb itself retreated to the innermost recess of the brain." In his "Life of Sterling," Carlyle introduces his famous description of Coleridge's appearance. "The deep eyes, of a light hazel, were," he says, "as full of sorrows as of inspiration; confused pain looked mildly from them, as in a kind of mild astonishment."

The eyes of Keats were described by one of his contempories as "mellow and glowing; large, dark and sensitive." Cowden Clarke states that they were of a brown color, or dark hazel, thus contradicting Mrs. Proctor's assertion that they were "blue."

Leigh Hunt, in his "Autobiography," speaking of Wordsworth's appearance, says: "I never beheld eyes that looked so inspired or supernatural. They were like fires half burning, half smoldering, with a sort of acrid fixture of regard, and seated at the further end of two caverns. One might imagine Ezekiel or Isaiah to have had such eyes."

Walter Scott says of Burns: "There was a strong expression of sense and shrewdness in all his lineaments; the eye, alone, I think, indicated the poetical character and temperament. It was large, and of a class that glowed (I say literally glowed) when he spoke with feeling or interest. I never saw such an eye in a human head, though I have seen the most distinguished men of my time."—Frank Leslie's.

Of Different Family.

A prominent lawyer in New Orleans, who died recently, was no less noted for his tolerance than for his legal knowledge. To a friend who once happened to express wonder that this trait was so highly developed in him he said:

"If I have a charitable temper, I owe it to a chance remark of an old uncle of mine made when I was a boy.

"He saw me one day torturing a frog, and said, meditatively, 'Now, I wonder why you do that? You are kind to dogs, birds and rabbits.'

"I replied that the frog was hideous, filthy and useless.

"'Yes, perhaps so,' he said, in the same reflective tone. 'It belongs to a different family from you. It has not the hereditary traits of the dog, the rabbit or the man. But it is not a trait of a frog to fight or despise another creature because it is not like itself. That is the mean, senseless vice of a man.'

"I thought over the remark a long time, trying to understand what he meant by it. After that day I never threw a stone at a frog; and I learned to apply his meaning to the men and women around me."—Montreal Star.

Realism in the Theatre.

Mechanical contrivances will always be powerful stage factors. The public requires animation—but hardly such animation as was experienced by an intimate friend of mine. In one scene he had to effect an escape by jumping on the left hand side of a railroad train as it left the depot, and, by immediately jumping off the right hand side, evade his pursuers. The fore part of the train was built in profile; the last car was a solid one, wheels and all. The car crossed at a very speedy pace, but one of the wheels broke off as my friend started to jump, and he was hurled by the momentum of the shock clear across the footlights, and into the arms of a "fat, fair and forty" lady who sat immediately behind the orchestra.—Duncan B. Harrison.

Man's Flattery of Woman.

I would also advise young women not to depend for happiness on the flatteries of men. It is a poor compliment to your sex that so many men feel obliged in your presence to offer unmeaning compliments. Men capable of elegant and elaborate conversation elsewhere sometimes feel called upon at the door of the drawing room to drop their common sense and to dole out sickening flatteries.—T. De Witt Talmage in Ladies' Home Journal.

A Civil Service Examination.

There are people who seem born with a faculty for always getting things wrong, and it must have been one of these who figured in an incident which occurred at the City hall, in Boston. Into the room where the city physician held examinations of candidates for the police force came an awkward looking fellow one day.

"Capt. Blank," he said, mentioning the name of the captain of a police station, "sent me here to be examined. Is this the room?"

He was told that it was, and after his name, age and other things of this sort had been written down, he was directed to take off his coat and shirt. The physician then examined his heart and lungs, and made the usual inquiries, the candidate all the while getting more and more impatient. When he was directed to remove the remainder of his clothing his patience gave way entirely.

"Look here," he said, angrily, "I never was treated so in my life. Why should I take off my clothes just because you say so?"

"Why, it is customary to make the examination thorough," the physician explained, patiently. "I am treating you exactly as I treat everybody else."

"All right," the man said, sulkily, beginning to disrobe, "but I'll be hanged if I see what all this has to do with the case."

"Why, if you want to go on the police force you must of course submit to the tests."

"Police force!" exclaimed the man, in mingled fury and astonishment; "I came here to be examined as a witness."

"In that case," the doctor answered, smiling at the situation, "you may put on your clothes and go into the room over this."—Youth's Companion.

Save the Teeth.

An eminent English dentist protests against the present extravagant waste of human teeth by surgeons and incompetent dentists, and declares that while there are, maybe, sufficient reasons for extracting a tooth, it is never necessary to do so merely to relieve pain. In at least 90 per cent. of the cases coming to an active dentist, pains in the teeth are due to what may be called primary and secondary toothache. Primary toothache, the pain of which is oftener felt in the nerve terminals in the face than in the tooth itself, is congestion of the tooth pulp, and it may be relieved very easily by careful excavation, sufficient to allow an escape of blood from the pulp, which may then be devitalized by an arsenical dressing.

To complete the operation, which may be postponed for weeks without further inconvenience, the pulp must be removed from the root canals and these filled to the apex. Secondary toothache, or alveolar abscess, is caused by gangrene of the pulp, and is regarded by most surgeons as so serious as to call for a removal of the tooth, which, in nine cases out of ten, might be retained and made useful and comfortable. The course of treatment is an opening to the pulp to relieve the pain, followed by a series of antiseptic dressings in the roots to cleanse them from all purescent matter, and then, as in the other case, filling them to the apex.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Life Preserver for Miners.

An English invention consists of an apparatus for ascertaining the contiguity of water or gas workings in mines, and for passing food to imprisoned miners and for rescuing them. The apparatus for ascertaining the state of a mine as regards approaching danger consists of a chamber fitted with a slide valve, which can be opened and closed at pleasure. Through a stuffing box in the chamber on the working side passes a boring tool, with which the miner drills a hole in the coal to the distance inwards to which he intends to work. Assuming this to be, say, eight feet, when he has reached that distance he withdraws the boring tool, and if neither gas nor water has made its appearance, he knows that he can safely go in so far. Should he tap water or gas during the boring there would be an inrush of the one or the other into the chamber of the apparatus and its presence would be indicated by a pressure gauge. The boring tool would then be withdrawn as far as the stuffing box, the safety valve would be closed in front of it, and steps would be taken to insure safety in the workings.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Too Many Porpoises.

The French fishermen are troubled by the depredations of porpoises, for which they have not succeeded in finding a remedy. An attempt was made to catch them in seine nets, but they jumped out of the snares. They were scared away by guns and torpedoes, but the fish were frightened and disappeared with them. They are too numerous to be shot one by one in an effective manner. The only thing to be done seems to be for the fishermen to unite and drive them away in crowds: but this will have to be often repeated. Insurance and payment of damages by the government are the last measures of relief suggested; but they, too, are expensive to somebody.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Meaning Unchanged.

She—In Shakespeare "fond" means "foolish."

He—I don't believe the meaning has changed any since his day. I used to call myself your fond lover.—Yankee Blade.

Precocious J. S. Mill.

John Stuart Mill is another remarkable example of precocity. He began Greek at the age of 3, and by the time he was 8 years old he had read far more Greek than most college graduates, besides all the works of Hume, Gibbon, Robertson, Rollin and many other books of a similar character. When 12 years old he read "Aristotle's Logic" in the original, a work of great difficulty even for an accomplished scholar.—New York Ledger.

NAMES OF NEGROES.

Curious Nomenclature That Originated in the Old Plantation Life.

Of course, on every plantation there were several negroes of the same name, and the negroes, who are apt at such things, used various and peculiar sobriquets to distinguish them. On my father's place there was an' Taller Liza, an' Black Liza and an' Pop Eyed Liza, an' Unker Big Jake, Unker Little Jake and Unker Knock Kneed Jake. There were in one family three generations of Bens, all possessed of a mental or physical infirmity. The old man, who had been kicked in the head by a mule, was crazy. He spent his days and pretty nearly all his nights standing under a broad China tree preaching of the judgment day. He was Unker Fool Ben. His son, a middle aged man, afflicted with an ulcer that made him lame, was Unker Hoppin' Ben. The grandson who trembled with the palsy and besides was simple minded, was Unker Chilly Ben. Though able bodied, he was never required to do any work and wandered about the place without let or hindrance.

At the close of the war a large majority of the southern negroes assumed the name of the family to which they belonged, getting it fearfully twisted sometimes, as, for instance, Grim for Graham, Buskey for Arowbuski, etc. Some went back in search of names to their former owners in Virginia or Carolina, who had lost them either through debt or raised them to be sold to the negro speculator, who brought them further south to be sold again to work the cotton and rice plantations. In this way you will now find the grandfather of a family bearing the name of his old master in Virginia, his son that of his owner at the close of the war, while the grandson assumes some fanciful name suggested by circumstances. So I know an old man calling himself Jim Sanders. His son is Jim James, Jr. There is not nor ever has been a Jim James, sr. His son, again, is Jim Grandson. Upon the plantations you still occasionally come across the once familiar names of Sambo, Cuffee, Dinah, Sukey, etc., but very rarely even there. Grandisons, Mortimers, Leilas, Nathalies, etc., have taken their places.

Bible names, with explanatory prefixes and suffixes, are great favorites among the devout portion of the negro community. The man who works my garden is King David Jonsing. My woodcutter is Rev. Solermon Wiseman, who, like St. Paul, does not disdain with his own hands to minister to his necessities. Besides these, I number among my acquaintance Rev. Simon Surrender and Holy Tabernacle, Brother John the Baptist Tubbs. Among the more secular are Mr. Jack Hyena and Prince Albert Hardtimes, a happy equality between the aristocrat and the plebeian. The lusty young negro man who, with Webster's spelling book and a hickory, teaches the colored idea how to shoot, has chosen the name of Professor Sam Cape of Good Hope. A black vulcan, hammering sparks from his anvil, dubs himself Sampson Lightning. The butcher's boy, who comes whistling into the yard with his basket upon his arm and has a face as black as ebony, answers to the name of Ivory Temple. A little colored female tramp from the country, who comes to me once a week, totin' a bundle of ligther'd on her head, which she offers to exchange, announces herself as Miss Annerlizer Purse. An empty purse, evidently, for she never fails to wind up the trade by asking: "Ain't yer got nuthin' t'eat yer kin give me?"—Cor. Philadelphia Times.

The Fashionable Avenue.

Beyond the Arc de Triomphe is the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne leading to the park of that name. It is a thoroughfare that grandly shows to what beauty avenue gardening is capable. It was made entirely through private lands, half the expense being borne by the state under the conditions that an iron railing of uniform design was to be constructed along the whole length of the road; that a strip of about forty feet in breadth be left for a garden between this railing and the houses, and, further, that no kind of trade or manufacture should be carried on in any of the buildings adjoining. Its total length is 1,350 yards and its width is 130. It consists of a central roadway 80 feet wide, of two sidewalks each 40 feet wide, of a "Rotten Row" for riders, of two long pieces of garden with grass, shrubs and flowers, and of two bordering roads for public vehicles. Some of the most magnificent private mansions in Paris face on this avenue, and it is the direct fashionable route to and from the bois.—Cor. Chicago Herald.

William as He Was.

The name William was not at first given to children; it was a name conferred upon a man as a reward of merit. When the ancient Germans fought with the Romans, the Germans were armed only with light weapons, swords, spears, shields, etc., and if a German killed on the field a well armed Roman, wearing a gilded helmet, the helmet was set on the head of the brave German who had slain its owner, who ever after was known as Gildhelm, or, as we would say, Golden Helmet. Among the Franks the name was Guildhelme, and with the French, Guilheaume, afterwards Guillame, and with the Latin speaking nations, Gulielmus. Finally the French Guillame became Wuillame and soon evoluted into William.—St. Louis Republic.

A Honeymoon Warning.

He—The cutlet is cold again, darling. Now what would you do if I scolded just a little?

She—Make it hot for you, dearest.—Jester.

Which Is Nearly Always Brown.

"How dark she is. Her face is as brown as a berry."

"Yes; she is Boston bred."—Chatter.

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