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A BUNCH OF ORCHIDS

By Mate Palmer.

Carrying coals to Newcastle" is not the only mistaken generosity of the charitably inclined. Benevolence and philanthropy need a slight governing power of good judgment and common sense to accomplish entirely satisfactory results.

A good story is told of a wealthy and kind-hearted woman whose name was better known in connection with liberal contributions for special purposes than for any individual efforts along charitable lines. Not that she was in any way lacking in kindly sympathy, but the sheltered life of affluence protected her from actual contact with that kind of suffering that comes from destitution.

She thought of poverty as an uncomfortable malady prevalent among masses instead of individuals, and requiring a certain amount of the red tape of committees and regular organizations to accomplish any results. But one day her heart was deeply stirred by a story of suffering that came to her knowledge. She wept when she heard it, and she resolved to do something to give the poor invalid a little pleasure a glimpse of luxury.

It didn't take long to decide what to do. She had a collection of orchids of which she was very proud, and it required a good deal of self-denial to part with any of her beautiful favorites, but she had determined to give the sick woman a treat, so she selected some of the most wonderful specimens, and took them to the poor sufferer.

She knew if she had been ill and confined to her room nothing could possibly have given her more pleasure have been a greater diversion than those same orchids, and she was happy in the consciousness of a good deed as she approached the poor little dwelling. She had preferred taking them, so she might enjoy the woman's happi ness in such an unaccustomed delight.

There was no hesitation in her manner as she rapped on the black little door. But it seemed a long time be fore the door was opened by a pinched, wan-looking girl, of perhaps a dozen

Surprised at so well-dressed a visitor. the girl simply stared at her until she asked if she might see her mamma and give her some orchids she had brought. A moment later she was piloted through a bare and dismal room into still more dismal little bedroom, where an emaciated woman lay propped up by soiled and dingy pillows.
The gentle twilight that comes from too close proximity to tall buildings softened the sharp features of the sick wotoward her elegant visitor. If Mrs. Brown was unfamiliar with such destitution, the sick woman was surely startled by such a guest.

But the young daughter was quite equal to the emergency. She didn't in-tend her mother should be humiliated by not knowing what those blossoms were so, with the reckless abandon of childhood, she rushed up to the bed and told her mother a nice lady had brought her Then she set a broken some "orgies." chair for Mrs. Brown, and went to get ing to put the flowers into.

"Orgies" or "orchids," it was all one to sick Mrs. Rogers; she said: "Thank you," in a listless sort of way and Mrs. Brown asked her how she was feeling. Before she was through telling how dreadfully weak she was the young girl returned with a cracked blue pitcher, and Mrs. Brown arranged the orchids that even the old blue pitcher did not detract from their loveliness, and held them where the invalid might fully admire them. No enthusiasm rewarded her efforts.

"Pretty, ain't they? Look some like lady slippers, don't they?"

That was all she said about them. She spoke again about being so very weak, and then relapsed into silence.

Mrs. Brown tried to talk a little with Bessle, for that she learned was the young girl's name, and feeling that she wasn't succeeding very well in her endeavors, tried to say a few words of encouragement and started for home.

Her visit had been a great disappointment to her. She hardly knew just what she had expected. She wouldn't like to have admitted, even to herself, that there had been an undercurrent of vanity in her condescen-sion and that she had really taken a great deal of credit to herself for taking her floral treasures to such a forsaken place, and had expected a reward of overwhelming enthusiasm.

Her self-love had been deeply wounded, and as he walked slowly toward her elegant home she tried to even things up by a wholesale mental condemnation of ingratitude. She even determined to write a scathing paper on the subject of "The Absolute Absence of Appreciation Among the Poorer Classes," for a very exclusive and aristocratic club of which she was a member. She liked the alliteration, and the story of the orchids would make a good illustration.

It was nearly dinner time when she reached home, and she found her husband awaiting her and eager to know the details of such an unheard-of visit as he had just learned she was mak-

Mrs. Brown was very witty and her annoyance had rather blinded her to the pathos of the occasion, so she told the story in a manner that savored strongly of heartlessness.

"What did you take her to eat?" Mr. Brown asked as she finished her story. "Why, nothing! I Why, John, you don't suppose she was that poor?" "Oh, no! you weren't exactly that poor yourself last spring when you were getting up from the grip. But I noticed dainty soups brewed away from home were wonderfully welcome. Per-haps the poor creature hasn't a good chef, and food would be more nourishing than flowers, and oranges would taste better than orchids."

"Don't be sacastic, John; really l

"No, I see you didn't; you make me think of dear old Auntie McIntosh's visit to Jane McGuire. You know Auntie McIntosh' was very rich and very religious, but she sometimes had droll experiences in her good-natured, though ill-advised attempts at soulsaving. Her visit to Jane Meguire was one of these instances Jane was an industrious Irish woman who had supported herself by hard work until a protracted illness brought her to the end of her resources and nearly to the brink of the grave at about the same time. It made her very rebellious to see ber hoarded savings melt away while she was too weak to earn more. When Auntie McIntosh drove up in her fine carriage one morning to have a talk with Jane, thinking it would be a good time to point a moral on occasional glasses of beer and cuss words that Jane was reputed to indulge in. Jane took it all quietly until Auntie proposed a season of prayer. Then her Irish temper and her sense of injustice put politeness to rout. "Bad cess to sich Christians as you are," she said, "with Jer preachin' and yer prayin'. You'd better be givin' potatoes than prayers. You'd be makin' more converts with ver soups than with all yer sermons."

"What dld Annie McIntosh say?" "Oh, she wasn't a fool, if she didn't have very practical ideas. She thought a minute and then she said: 'Jane, I guess you are about right. I was so anxious about your soul, I didn't think about the needs of your poor body, but I will bring the things you need right away.' When she returned a little later with a liberal supply of provisions she found poor Jane whelmed with mortification at what she called her meanness. But it was a salutary lesson to both of them. and I would suggest that you try the same scheme with your portege to-morrow

The next day and for several days following Mrs. Brown sent nourishing foods and dainty fruits to the home where she had taken the orchids. But was eight or ten days before she again went to visit the little home. When she did go such a happy-looking girl opened the door she could hardly believe it was the pale child she met the week before. There was real joy in her manner as she ushered the fine lady into the little room-moter was sitting up and actually trying to do a little sewing. Was it possible that a week's supply of wholesome food had wrought such a wondrous change!

If there had been lack of appreciation when she took the orchids there was certainly enthusiasm now. But she had been mistaken. Surely there was the old blue pitcher. And there, too, still fresh and beautiful, were many of the

"How did you manage to keep them so long?" she exclaimed.

'Why, you see we have so few flowers and we love them so much that we have learned how to care for them. If the water is changed frequently and two or three rusty nails put in the vase the oxygen eats the iron instead of the flowers, and they last longer. These are the most beautiful I have ever seen. seem to see faces in every one. But the day you brought them I was so weak for want of food I could hardly see them at all."

Poor Mrs. Brown was in tears. This woman-that she almost ridiculed and thought of writing compositions about to be a cultured woman onite capable of earning a comfortable support by which soon rendered her a perfect treasure to Mrs. Brown and her aristrocratic friends.-Banner of Gold.

Brains in Kindness.

I have known some people—men as well as women—happily ingenious in the small services of lite and the house in which they live has always a favor able aspect toward the sun. They have received their commission from duty. They act in firm and settled course. Though their alms are in secret, they are never in the dark, for they shed a light of their own. They give little presente which have an exaggerated attraction because they are just what you want. They cause they are just what you want. They say the right word—just what every one would say—only they say it at the right time, so that the apple of gold gleams in a basket of silver. They have a promptness of manner which forestalls your comfort and helps you without any burdensome reminder that the help is given. Watching genial and attractive people I have often fallen into a deep despair about myself, for all this seems a natural gift, like music or poetry. But a natural gift, like music or poetry. But I have some reason to think that it is not so natural, either, but toilsomely acquired in the accustomed places-viz. the cratory at the foot of the cross, and the cave under the hilton of duty.

The British Flag-Its Egyptian Origin. On this square the equinoctial points are called by the recorded name of Horus, and those intermediate between at the corners by the name of Hat-hor. These points, when united by horizontal, per-pendicular and traverse lines, form the eight-rayed star, the sign of God and barleyseed to the ancient Akkadians and Chinese, and the Eshmun or eight-rayed

god of the Phoenicians.

These divisions were formed by placing a St. George's cross over the cross of St. Andrew: and that St. George's cross is the sign of Horus, the god of the year measured by the equinoxes with their equal days and nights, has been proved by M. Clerment Ganneau. He shows that the Egyptian statue at the Louvre repre-senting Horus as the bird-headed knight. senting Horus as the bird-headed knight, riding on the sun horse and slaying the dragon of winter with his spear is identical with the Byzantine pictures of St. George. Also the St. Andrew's cross represents his mother, the sun-bird mother of a bird-headed son, the Shvena bird of the Rigveta.—Westminster Review.

Adjutant Birds of Calcutta. On a parade ground at Calcutta are several adjutant birds. These creatures walk up and down the grounds, and they look so much like soldiers that at a distance strangers often mistake them strangers often mistake then

Going to a Finish. "Why does your son return to sel after graduation, madam?" "I don't understand these education terms, but he wants to take a preducte course on the gridien."

ALL SORTS

A lost art-Family government. Man doubles his evils by brooding upon them.

A favorite Chinese medicine is baked clay dust.

A line to follow with a view to matrimony-The "Plum" line.

If a man blows his own trumpet, can his opinions be sound?

Congregational singing was introduced shortly after the reformation. A "straight drink" may be termed one that goes directly down to the right spot.

A Chicago horse not only chews tobacco, but picks the hostler's pocket for that luxury. The millionaire, E. T. Hooley, owns

20,000 acres of land distributed over six British counties. A lady in Paris advertises for employment as "ornamental guest at din-

ner and evening parties." "Here are the eggs. mum." them on the table." "I'm not the hen, mum; I'm the grocer's boy.'

In the seventeenth century, the epithet "miss," applied to females, was considered a term of reproach. A sentimental youth says he prefers

hanging on the neck to hanging by the neck, but that both are dangerous. A baldheaded man may always expect to find a friend and sympathizer

in the manufacture of wigs. Most of the shadows that cross our nath through life are caused by our standing in our own light.

It's all nonsense to talk about "our first parents;" no man ever had more than one complete set. The dearest spot on earth to me is

'Home, sweet home," as the husband said when the milliner and dry goods bills came in. A female divine in Indiana, after

concluding the marriage ceremony the other day, insisted on kissing the bridegroom. Why is a man paying his note at a bank like a father going home to his

children? Because he meets his responsibilities. When nature wishes to appear lively and beautiful she takes a bath, and

the example is a good one for the human family to follow. What is the difference between the captain of a baseball nine and a prize fighter? One heads the batters, and

the other batters the heads. In this country there is no wine so essentially popular, none which has a firmer hold on the public taste, than champagne.

First Boarder-Hurrah! Second Boarder-What for? First Boarder-The prune crop for nex year will be a total failure.-Syracuse Herald.

Martin Martin, an eccentric and wealthy Scotchman, has begun the erection near Lonclan, Ia., of a baronial castle, with parks and lakes, which he will occupy alone, as he has no family.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Mohammedans say that one hour of justice is worth seventy years of pray-

A man once thanked God for placing death at the end instead of the begin-Spurgeon defines a gentleman as

same time paddle his own canoe." When a married man becomes corned it is perfectly proper for his wife to pull his ears.

"one who can serve God, and at the

English grocers use chromate of lead to an almost fatal extent in the adulteration of sugar. "Return good for evil," as the match

said when lighting the pipe of the man who had just struck it. The purest iron ores in the world

are said to be those found in the Huronian rocks of northern Michigan. Why was Robinson Crusoe's man Friday like a rooster? Because he scratched for himself and crew-so. "I'm stting on the 'style,' Mary,"

as the fellow said when he ruthlessly sat down on his sweetheart's new bon-

Some one remarks that if the best man's faults were written on his forehead, it would make him pull his hat Jewsharp is said to be a corruption

of jawsharp, the name suggested from its being placed between the jaws when played. Mothers used to provide a switch for

their daughters from the nearest bush; now the daughters get their own switches from the milliner. Man is a mill; the stomach the hopper. Be careful how much grist goes

into the hopper, as clogging and heat will be the result of overfeeding. Flattery, the current commodity of the world, on which fashion lives and thrives, is at most a lie in its best

An admiring husband complimented his wife, who was sweeping the parlor (for exercise and amusement of course), on her in-dust-ry. It is a marked trait of human na

ture that no one is satisfied with an imitation when he can get the genuine Old "Coronation," the well-known

popular hymn, was written eighty years ago by the Rev. E. Perronet, of the Church of England.

Sarcastic.—Reporters are often un-consciously satirical. A morning paper says in an obituary: "Mr. — was an estimable citizen. He lived uprightly. He died with perfect resignation. He had recently been married."

be a sweet-heart, a wife, a mother - this is called the crown of womanhood; yet there are crowns which bring only mis-

Can any woman who suffers with constant dragging, wearying, life-sapping silments be happy? Does not her crown of womanhood become a symbol of martyrdom rather than of happiness If ailing women realized how surely Dr. Pierce's wonderful "Favorite Prescription would restore them to com-plete health and the perfection of queenliness, there would be more coronets of joy set upon brows now crowned with misery.

my bowers, and some a pain—do all my o and am a strong and healthy woman, to your medicine. I never forget to re

Ang woman may write to Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., with the utmost confidence. He will give her case careful consideration and send her letter of common-sense, professional ad-

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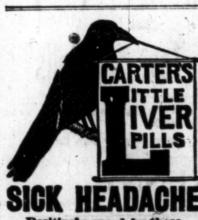
Food, Wine and Cigars Carried Annual y to the Cemetery

Twice a year, in the first week of April and October, the Chinese feed their dead. They think, very sensibly, that once their friends and relatives leave this mortal coil they ought to stay away from this world, and to prevent their return they faithfuily trans mit to them all the necessaries of life. It has been discovered by oriental wisdom that the way to transmit servants, songs, plays, books and money is to manufacture them in paper and burn them. But actual eatables must

be carried to the grave. The Chinese are not stingy, and wagon loads of roasted chickens, pigs. ducks, various sweetmeats and fruits are taken to the cemeteries. The food is piled before each grave amid burning red, carrot shaped candles and joss sticks. Then the living prostrate themselves before the dead and beg them to rise up and enjoy themselves. Chinese wines are then sprinkled liberally over the graves, while some graves receive boxes of cigars and packages of

The first step to knowledge is to know that we are ignorant. The consciousness of our strength

piness, rich or poor.



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crowned with misery.

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"I was so had I would lie from day to day and long for death to come and relieve my suffering. I had internal inflammation, a disagreeable drain, bearing-down pains in the lower part of my bowels, and such distress every month, but now!

your medicine. I never to all suffering women. I consider to all suffering women of the benefits of

vice free of charge.

If your head aches, the trouble is pretty sure to be constipation. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets will cure you.

ists in China.

But you must not suppose that the eatables are left on the graves. Oh, no! That would be throwing too much temptation in the way of heathen tramps. In about two hours it is believed that the ghosts got the essence of the eatables conveyed to them, and then the devotees gather up the offer ings and carry them home again to feed to their own material bodies. But the cigars and cigarettes are burned on the graves.

We look before and after, and pine for what is not.

The consciousness of our strength makes our strength greater.

It is a great sign of mediocrity always to be moderate in praising.

The desire of knowledge, like the thirst of riches, increases ever with the acquisition of it.

It is the mind that maketh good or ill that maketh wratchedness or hanill, that maketh wretchedness or hap-

