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A BUNCH OF ORCHIDS.

By Mate Palmer.

"Carrying coals to Newcastle" is not the only mistaken generosity of the charity 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 went 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 or 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 happiness in such an unaccompanied delight.

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

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 a 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 woman as she turned wearily inquiring eyes toward 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 intend her mother should be humiliated by not knowing what those blossoms were worth. With the reckless abandon of childhood, she rushed up to the bed and told her mother a nice lady had brought her some "orgies." Then she set a broken chair for Mrs. Brown, and went to get something 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. 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 her, for that she learned the name of 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 condescension 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 she 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 making.

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. Perhaps the poor creature hasn't a good chef, and food would be more nourishing than soups and oranges would taste better than orchids."

"Don't be sarcastic, John; really I didn't think about—"

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 dinner and evening parties."

"Here are the eggs, mum." "Lay 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 path 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 team 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 next year will be a total failure.—Syracuse Herald.

Martin Martin, an eccentric and wealthy Scotchman, has begun the erection near Lunenburg, N. S., 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 prayer.

A man once thanked God for placing death at the end instead of the beginning of life.

Spurgeon defines a gentleman as "one who can serve God, and at the same time paddle his own canoe."

When a married man becomes corned it is perfectly proper for his wife to pull his ears.

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 pupae of the 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.

"I'm sitting on the 'style, Maty," as the fellow said when he ruthlessly sat down on his sweetheart's new bonnet.

Some one remarks that if the best man's faults were written on his forehead, it would make him pull his hat over his eyes.

Jewelry is said to be a corruption of jawharp, 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 grit 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 clothes.

An admiring husband complimented his wife, who was sweeping the parlor (for exercise and amusement of course), on her in-dust-ry.

THE CROWN OF LOVE

What does love mean and how much happiness does it bring to the average woman? To be a sweet heart, a wife, a mother—this is called the crown of womanhood; yet there are crowns which bring only misery and pain to the wearers.

Can any woman who suffers with constant dragging, wearying, life-sapping ailments 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 complete health and the perfection of queenliness, there would be more coronets of joy set upon brows now crowned with misery.

"I had female trouble for eight years," writes Mrs. L. J. Dennis, of 325 East 10th St., Jacksonville, Ill. "For three years I suffered continually. Words cannot express what I suffered. I sought relief among the medical profession and found none, until induced by kind friends to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. When I commenced taking this medicine I weighed ninety-five pounds. After taking 'Favorite Prescription' I was built up until now I weigh one hundred and fifty-six pounds—more than I ever weighed before."

"I was so bad I would lie from day to day and long for death to come and relieve my suffering. I had internal inflammation, a disagreeable, burning-down pains in the lower part of my bowels, and such distress every month, but now I never have a pain—do all my own work and am a strong and healthy woman. Thanks to your medicine. I never forget to recommend it to all suffering women. I consider myself a living testimonial of the benefits of your 'Favorite Prescription.'"

Any 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 a letter of common-sense, professional advice free of charge.

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

FEEDING THEIR DEAD.

Very Peculiar Custom Which Exists in China.

Food, Wine and Cigars Carried Annually 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 faithfully transmit to them all the necessities 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 cigarettes.

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 get the essence of the eatables conveyed to them, and then the devotees gather up the offerings 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 first step to knowledge is to know that we are ignorant.

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 wretchedness or happiness, rich or poor.

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Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They Regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

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