

A correspondent relates how experience cured him of hero-worship: When I was a college youth, I ventured one day to call on a man of some eminence, to whom I had been introduced. He received me with smiles and compliments, and as I left his presence I was ready to proclaim him the most gentlemanly man I had ever met with; but after I went out I lingered at the door a moment to determine whether I should call on another great man who lived near, and I overheard the polite gentleman I had left call his servant and administer to him the most terrible scolding I had ever listened to in my life, for letting in that stupid impudent stripling. This cured me of hero-worship and of interviewing great men. Since that date I have at times, gone to distinguished men's houses with letters of introduction, and turned at the door for fear of what might come.

RESURRECTIONISTS TACKLE A "LIVE CORPSE."—A Bucharest newspaper gives an account of the doings of a party of resurrectionists, whose crime resulted in joy to a bereaved family. A young woman who was engaged to be married had apparently died of small-pox, and, according to police regulations the body was buried with the least possible delay. In consequence of her betrothal, her relatives had adorned the corpse with the jewels which had been presented to her. Three individuals resolved to rob the body. The grave was opened, the body taken out and the trinkets removed. During the sacriligious proceeding one of the robbers was accused by his companions of cowardice, and in bravado struck the corpse in the face. The girl at once sat up and begged for mercy, which so frightened the robbers that they fled. The poor girl turned her feeble steps towards the house of the curate, to whom she told her story. The robbers were allowed to go free in consideration of the valuable services which they had unwittingly rendered.

Keokuk's *Gate City* says the meanest man in the world lives in Burlington. When a deaf dumb and blind hand organist was sleeping on the post-office corner the wretch stole his instrument and substituted a new fangled churn therefor, and when the organist awoke he seized the handles of the churn and ground away for dear life, and when the "shades of night was falling fast," that meanest man in the world came around, took his churn, restored the organ to its owner and carried home four pounds of creamy butter.

A Dangerous Humorist.

The following anecdote is given by Lord Houghton in his "Monographs Personal and Social," for the authenticity of which, he says, he will not vouch, but which seems to him good enough to be true.

On being settled at his small living in Yorkshire, Sydney Smith willingly assisted his neighbors in their clerical duties. On an occasion of this kind he dined with the incumbent on the preceding Saturday, and the evening passed in great hilarity, the squire, by name Kershaw, being conspicuous for his loud enjoyment of the stranger's jokes.

"I am very glad that I have amused you," said Mr. Sydney Smith, at parting, "but you must not laugh at my sermon to-morrow."

"I should hope I know the difference between here and at church," remarked the gentleman, with sharpness.

"I am not so sure of that," replied the visitor.

"I'll bet you a guinea on it," said the squire.

"Take you," replied the divine.

Next day the preacher ascended the steps of the pulpit, apparently suffering from a severe cold, with his handkerchief to his face, and at once sneezed out the name Ker-shaw several times, in various intonations.

This ingenious assumption of the readiness with which a man would recognize his own name in sounds imperceptible to the ears of others, proved accurate. The poor gentleman burst into a guffaw, to the scandal of the congregation, and the minister, after looking at him with stern reproach, proceeded with his discourse.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.—On Monday morning (says a Paris correspondent) a clerk applied to his superior for permission to be absent forty-eight hours on some family affairs, and received an affirmative answer. However, he did not appear

during the whole of the week, and no one knew to what cause to attribute his absence. On the following Monday he reappeared at the regular hour.

"Well, monsieur," demanded his superior, "why have you stayed away all week?"

"You, sir," replied the clerk, "gave me permission."

"I gave you leave for forty-eight hours only, and not for six days."

"I beg your pardon, sir," answered the young man, "I have only taken the exact time which you granted me. We work here eight hours a day, and six times eight are forty-eight. I certainly had no occasion to ask your permission for the night, any more than for the hours which I do not owe to the administration."

This was logical; but since that day the chief specifies by administrative hours the leave he grants.

A Wonderful Tree.

An Italian naturalist has been studying the eucalyptus tree, and finds it as valuable for destroying miasma as the most sanguine Californians have ever claimed it to be. It has extraordinary powers of absorption, the trunk of a full-grown tree taking up ten times its own weight of water from the soil in which it stands. This alone is often enough to purify a fever district, the superfluous miasma-breeding moisture in the earth being absorbed by the trees. Experiments with eucalyptus planting in miasmatic regions have given surprising results. The vicinity of the Convent Dell tre Fontane, near Rome, was one of the most pestilential spots in Italy, but monks sent there in 1868 to plant groves of these trees made it a healthful region within five years. On a farm near the Algerian borders, where previously no human being could live for any length of time, 1,300 eucalyptus plants in 1867 have counteracted every tendency to fever. Similar experiments have been successful also in Alsace and Lorraine. The home of the tree is in Australia and Tasmania. It composes in great measure the forests of Australia. In California all varieties of the trees are to be found. It is planted there chiefly on account of its rapid growth, to obtain shade and woodland on some of the otherwise treeless plains. So quickly does the eucalyptus grow that a plant three feet high set in the ground near Mentone in 1857, had attained in 1874 a height of over fifty feet and a diameter of forty inches three feet from the ground.

CORK.—The layer develops itself under the epidermis of the cork-oak. This tree, which belongs to the region of the Mediterranean, is very abundant in Spain, Italy, the south of France and Algeria, where it alone forms considerable forests. Up to the age of twelve years the tree produces a hard, irregular, tough kind of cork, which can only be used for floats or buoys; but after this is carefully removed, a new layer forms itself, which being no longer compressed by the epidermis, is regularly developed, and grows the true cork for bottles. In about ten years it gains the necessary thickness, when it is cut round the trunk at the top and bottom, and by vertical incisions stripped off in planks, which are sent to market. The same operation is repeated every ten years, so that a single tree gives in a hundred and fifty years twelve or fourteen harvests, producing a revenue better than any land can afford to the owner.

THE GIANT TREES.—A correspondent of the *San Francisco Examiner*, in speaking of the big trees of Calaveras County, says: "In the stump of one of these a ballroom, thirty feet across, is built, and it requires a ladder of eighteen steps to ascend to the top of the log, on which was built a ten-pin alley. It has been burned up, but the body of the old, charred monarch of the forest still remains. Think of it—a hollow log, through which one can ride on horseback and come out through a knot-hole! There are some ninety of these big trees, measuring from fifty to one hundred feet in circumference, and reaching up to the skies from three hundred to four hundred feet. From the rings that denote the annual growth of these trees science has estimated some of them to be 4,000 years old, while they stand over the fallen bodies of a much older growth, covered over with earth and large growing trees, as it is one of the peculiarities of this timber not to decay. It appears to be a species of red-wood."