

THE STRENGTH OF A FLOWER

A rock split asunder by a growing tree that has found lodgment in what was at first only a small crack is a familiar sight to most people. The force that a tree exerts in accomplishing this feat is tremendous, but relatively it is not equal to that exerted by the flower that Mr. John Burroughs describes in a recent book, "The Breath of Life":

One of the most remarkable exhibitions of plant force I ever saw was in a Western city, where I observed a wild sunflower forcing its way up through the asphalt pavement; the folded and compressed leaves of the plant, like a man's fist, had pushed against the hard but flexible concrete until it bulged up and split, and let the irrepressible plant through. The force exerted must have been many pounds. I think it doubtful if the strongest man could have pushed his fist through such a resisting medium.

Life activities are a kind of explosion, and the slow continued explosions of this growing plant rent the pavement as surely as powder would have done. It is doubtful if any cultivated plant could have overcome such odds. It required the force of the untamed hairy plant of the plains to accomplish the feat.

DISCOUNT AND PREMIUM

"What will you take for that team?" Courtney Royce stroked admiringly the near horse of a pair of carefully matched greys.

"Do you want to buy?"

"I think so. I shall have to get a new rig for the hospital work."

"Is the contract awarded?" asked the other man, with interest.

"No, but it might as well be. It lies between Hooper and me, and I happen to know that my bid is a good deal lower than his. And as for the bond, they're not to be compared."

Courtney spoke proudly.

"Oh, the bond's all right," said the driver of the greys, laughing. "Well, you can have them for a fair price."

"I want a good team," Courtney said. "I'll see you again when the matter's settled."

He went off, holding his head a little higher than usual. It was no wonder, perhaps. A great charitable institution, which had its headquarters three miles from Stanton, was about to let the contract to provision the different branches. There were model cottages for old people, a children's hospital, and a general hospital. The contract was important. Courtney felt that he was sure to win the business for the year. Alexander Hooper, his only real rival, was in a smaller way of business, and had not his advantages.

The same day old Doctor Horne met Mr. Fisher, the banker, who was one of the trustees of the institution, and drove him home to dinner.

"You must be about ready to let out the contract," the doctor said. "Courtney Royce will get it, I suppose."

"I'm not at all sure of that," Mr. Fisher replied.

"His tender's the lowest, isn't it?"

"Yes."

"He has his father-in-law's bond. You couldn't get a better."

"No. And Alexander Hooper has nothing but his own bond to offer. But personally I like Hooper's offer better."

The doctor laughed.

"How do you make that out?"

"By taking everything into consideration. You are looking at the circumstances, and forgetting the men."

"Courtney Royce is all right."

"Just so. But don't you think if the wholesale house offered him a little cheaper grade of goods for our use it would suit him about as well, always provided the cheaper stuff looked pretty much like the other?"

As well, and a little better," the doctor said. "Yet Royce is not a dishonest man."

"You have to discount a little for character in his case, that's all," Mr. Fisher said. "You take him at a discount, and not at a premium."

"That's true," assented the doctor.

"Would you say the same of Alexander Hooper?"

"No." Doctor Horne's answer was emphatic. "If you were willing to take an inferior article, Alexander Hooper wouldn't give it to you."

"Character at a premium," said Mr. Fisher. "Don't you think we can afford to pay a little more on the year's contract, and award it to Hooper?"

Courtney Royce did not buy the greys. He never could understand why the contract went to Alexander Hooper. "Influence!" he grumbled, and did not guess that it was the influence of character.

BOYS, GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS

As the boy begins, so, probably, will the man end. The lad who speaks with affectation and minces foreign tongues that he does not understand at school, will probably be weak in character all his life; the boy who cheats his teacher into thinking him devout at chapel will probably be the man who will make religion a trade, and bring Christianity into contempt; and the boy who wins the highest average by stealing his examination papers will probably figure

some day as a dishonest trickster. The lad who, whether rich or poor, dull or clever, looks you straight in the eye and keeps his answer inside of truth, already counts friends who will last his life, and holds a capital which will bring him in a surer interest than money.

Then get to the bottom of things. You see how it is already as to that. It was the student who was grounded in grammar that took the Latin prize; it was that slow, steady, drudge who practised firing every day last winter that bagged the most game in the mountain; it is the clerk who studies the speciality of the house in off-hours who is promoted. Your brilliant, happy-go-lucky, hit-or-miss fellow usually turns out the dead-weight of the family by forty-five. Don't take anything for granted; get to the bottom of things. Neither be a sham yourself or be fooled by shams.

WINTER IN A WARMER CLIME

Are you planning to spend all or part of the coming winter on the North Pacific Coast or California? The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is the choice scenic route. For full particulars apply

to any agent of the Grand Trunk Pacific Ry. or write W. E. Duperow, general passenger agent, Winnipeg.

TWO'S JOLLY FINE COMPANY

Alderman Jinks was describing a magnificent feast he had assisted at the previous evening.

"Yes," he said, smacking his lips, "I never enjoyed a spread so much. Oh! that turkey! What a bird! They had stuffed it to the eyes with truffles, and the flesh positively melted in the mouth. Nothing was left but the bones."

"How many were you?" someone asked.

"Oh, only two of us," was the somewhat startling reply.

"What! Only two?"

"Yes, two. Why not? The turkey and myself."

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

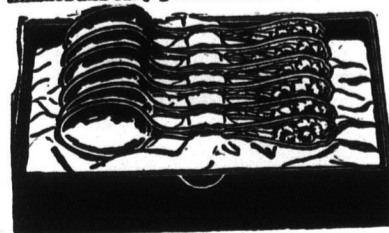
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You can do it quickly and easily in your spare time as everybody you know will gladly try a bottle of this lovely new perfume at only 25c. Send us your name and address to-day and we will send you the 16 bottles all postage paid, and trust you with them until sold. Then return our money, only \$4.00, and we will promptly send you the beautiful set of spoons, and the handsome dinner set you can also receive without selling any more goods by simply showing your fine reward among your friends and getting only seven of them to sell our goods and earn our fine premiums as you did. We arrange to pay all delivery charges right to your door.
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