

"THE FAVORITE"

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THE FAVORITE

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

We request intending contributors to take notice that future Rejected Contributions will not be returned.

Letters requiring a private answer should always contain a stamp for return postage.

No notice will be taken of contributions unaccompanied by the name and address of the writer (not necessarily for publication,) and the Editor will not be responsible for their safe keeping.

CONTRIBUTIONS DECLINED.

Queer Day's Fishing; A Wayward Woman; Christmas Eve on the Snow; Miss March's Christmas Eve; Love in Poetry; Delays are Dangerous: The Wrong Boat; Three Lovers; Poetical Temperance Tale; George Lettrim; The Mysterious Letter; Trial and Triumphs of Elizabeth Ray, School Teacher; Little Mrs. Rivington; Sentenced to Death; The New Teacher; Harris Lockwood; The Backwoods Schoolmaster; Mrs. Power's Lucky Day; Nick Plowshare's Fairy Story; That Emigrant Girl; The Phantom Trapper; A Romance of Poutsville; My Cousin Coralie; The Dying Year's Lament; Dawn; Improvisation; Skeletons; He Will Return; Susie; The Merchant's Reward; A Night at St. Aubert's; And Then; Blossom and Blight! Esther's Lovers; The Mystery of Boutwell Hall; Mount Royal Cemetery; Blighted Hopes; Minnie Lee's Valentines; Eva Hillmore's Valentine; A Tom Cat in the Breach; The Fatal Stroke; Only a Farmer; Meta's Broken Faith; How We Spend a Holiday in Newfoundland; Twice Wedded; John Jones and His Bargain; The Clouded Life; My Own Canadian Home; The Lost Atlantic; Gay and Grave Gossip; Lovely Spring; From India to Canada; Resurgam; A Railway Nap and its Consequences; Love or Money; For His Sake; Showed In; The False Heart and the True; Leave Me; Is There Another Shore; Weep Not For Me; Those Old Grey Walls; The Stepmother; Tom Arnold's Charge; Worth, Not Wealth; Miriam's Love; Modern Conveniences; Little Clare; Mirabile Dictu; Up the Saguenay; Ella Loring; Charles Foot; The Heroine of Mount Royal; The Rose of Fernhurst; Photographing Our First-born; Neskeonough Lake; A Midnight Adventure; Jean Douglas; The Restored Lover; Woman's Courage; A Story in a Story; Tried and True; Dr. Solon Sweetbottle; Second Sight; Eclipses; Genevieve Duclos; Our Destiny; Port Royal; Night Thoughts; Mr. Bouncer's Travels; Watching the Dead; Delusions; To Shakespeare; An Adventure; The Wandering Minstrel; Spring; The White Man's Revenge; The Lilacs; A Trip Around the Stove; My First Situation; An Unfortunate Resurrection; Our John; Kitty Merle; History of William Wood; Willersleigh Hall; A Night at Mrs. Manning's; Won and Lost; The Lady of the Falls; Chronicles of Willoughby Centre; Why Did She Doubt Him; Jack Miller the Drover; Ellen Mayford; Recompensed.

These MSS. will be preserved until the Fourth of January next, and if not applied for by that time will be destroyed. Stamps should be sent for return postage.

The Age of Vulgar Gilt; Mrs. Seymore's Curls; To the Absent; By the Waters; Almonte; To a Lover; A Fragment from the Scenes of Life; The Axle of the Heavens; The Correct View; Apostrophe to a Tear; June; A Debtor's Dilemmas; Proved; Wanted Some Beaux; Canadian Rain Storm After Long Drought; The Murderer's Mistake; Yesterday; Carrie's Hat and What Came of It; Leonie Collyer's Error; A Memory Autumn.

These MSS. will be preserved until the Twentieth of December next.

COURTESY.

The pleasure arising from courtesy almost exceeds description. From our equals we may expect that portion of attention which we bestow upon them; but when we are treated courteously by strangers, and by superiors, our breast feels emotion of the sweetest kind. The pang of poverty is for a while suspended by its witching power, and life rendered of greater value the more it is practised. Every young man's conduct on his first entrance into life should be adorned with it; it is the means by which he may ascend to the submit of fame, and gain entrance into the temple of riches. To every attainment it adds a charm; and though a man may be endowed with virtue, with sense, integrity, generosity, quick perceptive powers, and with acute wit, yet if he be destitute of courtesy his character is unfinished, and the absence of this desirable quality throws a shade upon all his other amiable graces.

Among the majority of mankind there is a spirit of folly, instead of integrity, which influences their conduct to each other; they imagine that by reserve and haughtiness they will be more respected, and that complaisance would inevitably produce inattention and impertinence. Alas! how weak and ridiculous are those persons. The very conduct they practise to gain respect excites the bitterness of reproach, and gives rise to the violence of hostility. To the general practice of courtesy must be ascribed the great success which many meet with in trade. The soldier, by its influence, is raised to eminence in his career, and the merchant elevated to independence. Worth and learning also are by these means sometimes led from their lowly habitations to grace that public situation in which, too infrequently, vice and folly, through the corrupt suffrages of mankind, are placed. Destitute of courtesy, the most splendid circles would be scarcely better than a tumultuous meeting of the lowest orders of society. The pleasures of neighborhood are greatly increased by its influence. Instead of that chilling reserve and ill-natured demeanor which are too often practised, how charming it is to behold fair courtesy prompting the morning's salutation and the evening's adieu! At stated times, when gathered together by invitation, how felicitous a sight to see the guests sitting around the social circle, enjoying converse and imparting joy! But most interesting of all is the gathering of young people and of little children. Hence, oftentimes, are sown in the tender breast the first seeds of friendship, kindness, and knowledge; for frequently the elder children of cultivated parents take pleasure in correcting the inaccuracies of expression, or of sentiment, that fall from younger lips.

A thousand inexpressible enjoyments flow from this divine source. Where courtesy is neglected the wild desert would be a more desirable abode, and its inhabitants the more agreeable neighbors and associates. The benefits arising from it are incalculable; it relaxes the stern looks of an estranged friend into a smile; in trade it frequently regains lost connections; in learning it makes contemporaries good-humored and candid, rival beauties are rendered not unpleasant in company; and sometimes it vanquishes the asperities of enmity. There is, in courtesy, a secret charm that delights the eye and more powerfully pleases the heart than any other attainment. Though many learned men of cloistered life may think it beneath their dignity to seek it, yet when they observe the general satisfaction it diffuses, they must be compelled to acknowledge its powerful effects, and wish it were united with their other endowments.

To those whom adversity has driven into servitude and dependence, courtesy is like the balm of consideration to their wounded spirits; it lightens the burden of their calamities, and excites a cheerful acquiescence in the dispensations of Providence. The indignities which they once thought they should feel, courtesy convinces them existed only in their timorous imagination. They are now persuaded that many are to be found who treat their inferiors as fellow-creatures, and who justly think that they differ not so much in sentiments as in the mode of delivering them. Entertaining these just ideas, and giving full scope to the practice of them, each individual of a family feels that serenity of mind which few enjoy in elevated situations. Surveyed on a more general scale, it will be found that courtesy, has a tendency to soothe the turbulent passions of men, and render less violent the conflict of contending factions. It may hush the clamor of discontent, silence the hissing of envy, and restrain the outrages of the bold and the impetuous. Hence will follow tranquility and obedience, instead of tumult and dissatisfaction; labor will be uninterrupted by discord, peace established, and a good understanding maintained between the employer and the employed. Oh, Courtesy, inspire man with an ample portion of thy spirit, then will he be inclined to the practice of kind actions and engaging manners, imparting pleasure to society and felicity to friendship.

LEECHES AS BAROMETERS.

WHEN we consider how often anxiety is expressed as to the state of the weather, it would seem probable that an infallible barometer, which could be obtained at the cost of a few pence, would be looked upon as invaluable, and find a place in every house. Such, however, is not the case; those who patronize this living barometer are "few and far between," and it is with the desire of making others better acquainted with what has been proved to be a most useful aid to weather-wisdom that the following notes are put together.

This barometer is none other than the common leech, which we are perhaps accustomed to look upon with more or less disgust, in spite of the undoubted benefits which its operations bring to us. The poet Cowper was well acquainted with this property of the leech. In a letter to Lady Hesketh, he says:—"Yesterday it thundered, last night it lightened, and at three this morning I saw the sky as red as a city in flames could have made it. I have a leech in a bottle that foretells all this prodigies and convulsions of nature. No—not, as you will naturally conjecture, by articulate utterance of oracular notices, but by a variety of gesticulations which here I have not room to give an account of. Suffice it to say, that no change of the weather surprises him, and that in point of the earliest and most accurate intelligence, he is worth all the barometers in the world. None of them, indeed, can make the least pretence to foretell thunder—a species of capacity of which he has given the most unequivocal evidence."

In Hone's "Everyday Book" there is a letter dated March, 1826, in which the following observations, "made by a gentleman who kept [a leech] several years for the purpose of a weather-glass," are given. The leech was kept in an ordinary eight-ounce bottle, about three parts filled with water, and covered at the mouth with a piece of linen rag; it was kept in a window, and the water was changed once a week in summer and every fortnight in winter. His observations coincide so nearly with those which we have ourselves made, that we shall extract them for the benefit of those who may make a similar experiment, so that they may know in advance (what observation would soon teach them) the meaning of the different movements of the prisoner.

"If the weather proves serene and beautiful, the leech lies motionless at the bottom of the glass, and rolled together in a spiral form. If it rains either before or after noon, it is found crept up to the top of its lodging, and there it remains till the weather is settled. If we are to have wind, the poor prisoner gallops through its limpid habitation with amazing swiftness, and seldom rests till it begins to blow hard. If a storm of thunder and rain is to succeed, for some days previously it lodges almost continually out of the water, and discovers very great uneasiness in violent throes and convulsions. In the frost, as in clear summer weather, it lies constantly at the bottom, and in snow, as in rainy weather, it pitches its dwelling upon the very mouth of the phial."

Our personal experience of these "clerks of the weather" is but limited; so far as it goes, it generally tends to confirm the foregoing remarks. The following observations, however, of a lady naturalist, to whom we are indebted for our introduction to leeches in their barometrical capacity, and who has herself kept a daily record of their movements for more than twelve years, admirably supplement what has been already quoted.

"As a rule, during fine and wet weather, the leeches remain at the bottom of the vessel. When a change is slowly approaching they move upwards, twenty-four hours, or, at times, thirty-six hours, in advance of it. When a storm is rapidly approaching, the leeches become very restless, and rise quickly; while before a thunder-storm they pass entirely out of the water. A tight-fitting wire-work cover must be placed over the top, as the leeches soon escape, especially in stormy weather. When the change occurs, they become still at the bottom of the vessel; but if under such circumstances they rise again or keep above the water, length or violence of storm is indicated. If the leeches rise during a continuance of east wind, wind rather than rain is to be expected. When a storm comes direct from a distance, we shall observe the rapid rising and restlessness alluded to above, but much shorter notice—from four to six hours—will be given. When heavy rain or high wind is to be expected, the leeches are also restless, and keep out of the water, but their movements are much less rapid. It is advisable to keep the vessel in a temperature as even as possible. When the temperature falls below 48° the leeches cease to indicate any change; they become quite torpid, or, in other words, hibernate *pro tem*. In a small jar at a temperature above 75°, the excessive heat may cause them to rise; otherwise they would be quiet."

From this description—the more trustworthy as being the result of the observations of many years—our readers will be able to gather what the various motions of the leeches indicate, should they be induced by this short notice to set up a living barometer. In more than one instance, when in apparently cloudless and settled weather a sudden storm has been indicated by the leeches and prophesied by their owner, the amazement of those not in the secret has been very amusing. We do not hesitate to say that many disappointments at picnics or excursions, would be prevented were these weather-creatures more generally known and more frequently consulted.

NEWS NOTES.

Mr. Crawford, M. P., was sworn in Lieut. Governor of Ontario last week.

The project of building a railway in connection with the Ashantee expedition has been abandoned as impracticable.

The Carlists claim another great victory over the Republicans in commemoration of which Don Carlos has struck a medal.

The London newspapers, in commenting on the Cuban executions, all express the hope that the United States will avenge the victims.

Advices received in England report a famine in Greenland from a failure of the fisheries. In one village, 150 persons are said to have been starved.

The Paris authorities are said to be in possession of documents exposing a plot, implicating a number of leading politicians, in favor of the Count de Paris.

A special from Berlin to the London Times says Germany will increase her military reserves in consequence of the formation of fortified camps at various points in France.

The Cabinet changes hinted by the Ministerial papers, a few days ago have taken place. Mr. Scott has got the Post Office, while Mr. D. A. McDonald takes the Militia, Mr. Ross is President of the Council.

The trial of Col. Stoffel, for using improper language to the public prosecutor in the Bazine court-martial, took place at Versailles yesterday. The prisoner was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and payment of costs.

A grand banquet was given at Guildhall, London, on the 10th inst., in honor of the Prince of Wales' birthday. Mr. Gladstone responded to the toast of "the House of Commons," referring to the Ashantee War, in the course of his remarks.

The Committee on the prolongation of the Government's powers has waited on President MacMahon. In reply to them he said he had no desire to modify the language of the address he sent the Assembly, advised them to hasten their legislative work, and expressed his opinion on the merits of presenting all bills to the Assembly for discussion.

Intense feeling has been created throughout the United States by the executions at Santiago de Cuba. A few of the New York papers are particularly rabid in their denunciations of the Spanish authorities, and are doing their best to rouse the worst feelings of both sides. Rumors of all sorts are rife, but doubtless many of them are false, as semi-official information from Washington shows that the activity in warlike preparations does not proceed from any intentions to attack Cuba, but merely to protect American citizens on that island from outrage. The United States Government, through their Minister in Spain, have demanded an investigation into the circumstances of the capture of the "Virginian," and the execution of her crew. Orders have been received at Brooklyn Navy Yard to get the sloops of war "Kearsage" and "Junetta" ready for sea with all possible despatch. The new torpedo boat, "Admiral Porter," was also launched, and will be ready for active service in a few days. The frigate "Brooklyn" is to be ready for sea against the 15th December, for service in Cuban waters.

Half of all ordinary diseases, would be banished from civilized life, and dyspepsia become almost unknown, if everybody would eat but thrice a day at regular times, and not an atom between meals, the intervals being not less than five hours, that being the time required to digest a full meal and pass it out of the stomach.

SCOTTISH GAMES AT OBAN.—A correspondent describes the annual celebration of national games of Scotland at Oban, a favorite watering-place near Glasgow. These games consist of mainly sports, throwing the hammer, wrestling, running, walking, boxing, throwing, and lifting heavy weights, and are presided over by the lords of the estates, and by them the prizes are awarded. The gentry of the neighboring counties attend, and in the evening a ball and a display of fire-works close the event. The people belonging to the Marquis of Lorne's estates were the principal competitors on this occasion, and the Marquis awarded the prizes. They were all dressed in the national costume, the different clans wearing three distinctive plaids. This Highland dress is the same that was worn in the days of Wallace and Bruce, and consists of a black silk velvet jacket, trimmed with gold or silver buttons; a plaid skirt reaching nearly to the knees; a plain sash of the same as the skirt with stockings reaching below the knees, thus leaving them bare; a dirk with a jewelled head is stuck in the stocking, the head just appearing above the top of it. The Marquis of Lorne appeared in the plaid of the house of Argyll—a bright scarlet and yellow. The Marquis is an insignificant looking fellow in comparison with the stalwart brawny chieftains with whom he moved about. He is very small, with a smooth, beardless face, very light hair, and very blue eyes. He is diffident and shy in manner, and when cheered or toasted he blushed like a girl. He moved among his people with an air of kindness, and seemed to be much respected and beloved by them. The hotel was full of people from the surrounding country, who had come for the games and the ball. The yachts were gayly decked out in colored bunting; the bag-pipers filled the air with strange, wild music, and a blaze of fire in the early evening kept the scene lively until the hour for the ball, which was held in a canvas pavilion just on the border of the bay.