

Society Fibs.

"Dear me!" exclaimed a vivacious young friend the other day, "I have just had to tell the most shocking fibs! My conscience troubles me yet."

"Why, and about what did you tell your fibs?" we asked, and the answer was:

"Oh, I went to see my friend Mrs. Brown, who has just gone to housekeeping, and nothing would do but I must go over the whole house, and admire it. Of course, Helen kept asking all the time: 'Now, isn't this carpet lovely?' and 'Did you ever see a more beautiful table?' or 'Is not that the easiest arm-chair you ever sat in?' until I was both tired of agreeing with her and ashamed of myself for doing it; for to tell the truth, I didn't like her taste at all. It is so hard to be enthusiastic to order."

"Then why attempt it at all?" we inquired.

"What would you have me to do? Be candid and disagreeable, vex your friends by speaking your mind, and expect them to take your uncomfortable sayings amiably? You must remember, that we do not live in the palace of truth now-a-days."

"Then it would be better if we did, since one must be untruthful to be liked."

Not untruthful! that is such a harsh ugly word," objected her companion. "I said fibs, you know."

Well, fibs are untruths, it seems to me, and when you agree with your friends because you fear to offend or annoy them by disagreement, you do violence to your sense of truth, and impair the sensibility of your conscience. The same fibs will be easier next time and the passive untruth may merge into the active falsehood."

"Then would you have me always say what I think? Can the truth be spoken at all times?"

"It is quiet possible to be kind and polite, even in our truth-telling. Offensive candor is not a Christian grace, though we have known many people who were frank, even to positive rudeness, under this misapprehension. But conscientious souls, with ordinary tact, will preserve their own integrity without wounding others."

"But what would you do if you went to see a baby, as I did lately, and had to say it was a perfect beauty when it was positively ugly? Wouldn't that test your principles?"

"No, because we would not say such a thing. A baby is always a precious gift to its mother, and one might speak of its sweetness and loveliness gracefully enough, without mentioning beauty. Rest assured, that all the fibs which you think friendship and social intercourse demand of you, can be avoided by a little thoughtfulness on your part; and you will not only save your conscience many a pang, but your friends will grow, in insensibility, to the exactness of speech, and to prize your words the more."

Torture by Electricity.

In regard to the application of powerful electric batteries to Roussakoff, the assassin of the Czar, to compel him to reveal the secrets of the crime, Park Benjamin, the scientific expert, told a New York Sun reporter: "The idea of torturing criminals by electricity is not original with the Russians. It is a British invention, and was first suggested about five years ago by an English mechanical journal, in commenting upon the execution of criminals by electric shock instead of by hanging. The English writer wanted to do away with the cat o' nine tails, which is administered in England to garrulous and other criminals of certain classes, and use the electric battery, as he somewhat grimly expressed it, so as to produce indescribable torture (unaccompanied by wounds or even bruises) thrilling through every fibre of such miscreants. There was an American inventor who had a design for inflicting this species of punishment. He fitted brackets of iron on the arms and thighs of the criminal, and placed in them wet sponges. When connected with a current of electricity the shock would by this system pass through the legs and shoulders, and avoid the vital parts of the body. The torture inflicted by electricity is of two kinds—by contraction of the muscles at rapidly recurring intervals and burning with sparks. The tortures of old days, when not done by fire or compression were the straining and tearing asunder of the muscles. Of this kind were the rack, scavenger's daughter, and the cages of Louis XIV., in which a man could not stand up or lie down. The electric shock exactly reverse these conditions. It produces an enormously rapid contraction in the body of the muscles at very short intervals. The degree of pain produced is about the same. The force of the electricity has to be nicely graded, as a too powerful shock would numb or kill a man. The other method is by condensing a number of intermittent sparks on the flesh. This burns the skin, and at the same time produces contractions of the muscles. If put to the side of the jaw it would make every tooth ache."

Mr. Erasmus Wiman, of New York, is to donate \$6,000 for the erection of public baths in Toronto.

A strange scene was enacted at the Union Station, Toronto, recently. Just as the 7 o'clock train was leaving for the east, two Sisters of Charity boarded it in company with a policeman, and seized a child which was in the seat with a man! They carried the child to the platform, and the train moved off. The Sisters said that the child had been left in their care by a dying mother. And that the man had stolen it from the House of Providence, to take it to Ottawa.

IMPORTANT AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL ACT.—Among the several amendments made to the Municipal Act during the recent session of the Ontario Legislature, the following merits attention:—"Section four hundred and seventy-four of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—"Every public road, street, bridge and highway shall be kept in repair by the corporation, and in default of the corporation so to keep in repair, the corporation shall, besides being subjected to any punishment provided by law, be liable to all damages sustained by any person on account of having houses and lands flooded through and by the construction of any public road, street, bridge, culvert or highway; but any claim for such damages must be lodged with the clerk, or head of the corporation, within three months after the damages have been sustained, and if not mutually agreed upon shall be settled by arbitration, under the provisions of the Municipal Act, notwithstanding anything in the said Act to the contrary."

ECLIPSES IN 1881.—During the year 1881 there will be four eclipses—two of the sun and two of the moon; and a transit of the planet Mercury across the sun's disk. The first will be a partial eclipse of the sun on May 27th. It will be visible here. It begins at sunrise at Buffalo and a few minutes before sunset at St. Louis. A total eclipse of the moon occurs on the night of June 11-12, visible throughout the United States. In this part of the country it will begin at 12-15, a. m., reach a total obscuration at 1-17, attain the middle of the eclipse at 1-58, and continuing until 2-39, when the moon will reappear, and it will be entirely over at 3-41 a. m. If the night is clear, it will be one of the most beautiful eclipses of the moon witnessed in this vicinity for years. An annual eclipse of the sun November 31st, and a partial eclipse of the moon on December 5th, will both be invisible in this part of the world. A transit of the planet Mercury across the sun's disk will take place on the 7th of November. The beginning only will be visible in the United States, and that in the western part.

Thomas Fahan, a farmer from Lime Lake, dropped dead as he was entering the door of the court room at Napanee on Wednesday. He was an extraordinary, large, stout healthy man, about 65 years of age. Apoplexy is supposed to have caused his death.

Newspaper Laws.

We call the special attention of postmasters and subscribers to the following synopsis of the newspaper laws:

- 1. A postmaster is required to give notice by letter (returning a paper does not answer the law) when a subscriber does not take his paper out of the office, and state the reasons for its not being taken. Any neglect to do so makes the postmaster responsible to the publishers for payment.
2. If any person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether it be taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until the payment is made.
3. Any person who takes a paper from the post-office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the pay.
4. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time, and the publisher continues to send, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it out of the post-office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.
5. The courts have decided that refusing to take a newspaper and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncollected for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

1881 NEW FRUITS. 1881

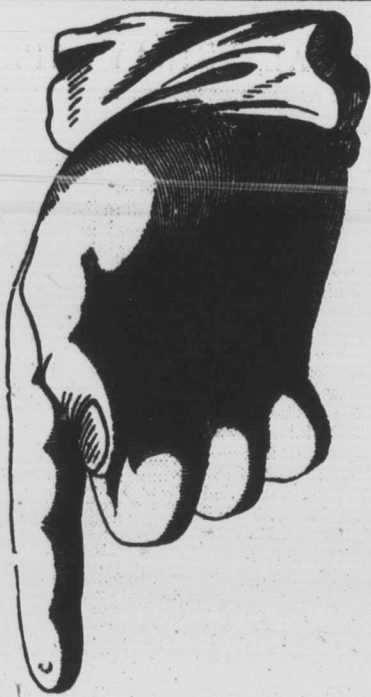
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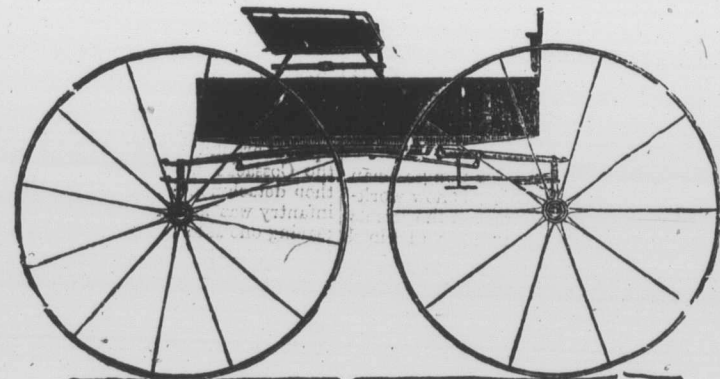
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