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Poetry.

BUILDING ON THE SAND.

'Tis well to woo, 'tis well to wed,
For so the world hath done
Since myrtles grew, and roses blew,
And morning brought the sun.
But have a care, ye young and fair,
Be sure you pledge with truth;
Beyond the days of youth!
For if you give not heart for heart,
As well as hand for hand,
You'll find you've played the "unwise" part,
And "built upon the sand."

'Tis well to save, 'tis well to have
A goodly store of gold,
And hold enough for shining stuff,
For charity is cold.
But place not all your hope and trust
In what the deep mine brings;
We cannot live on yellow dust
Unmixed with pure things.
And he who piles up wealth alone,
Will often have to stand
Beside his coffin-chest, and own
"Tis 'built upon the sand."

'Tis good to speak in kindly guise,
And sooth the where'er we can;
Fair speech would bind the humane mind,
And love link man to man.
But stay not at the gentle words,
Let needs with language dwell;
The one who pities starving birds
Should scatter crumbs as well.
'The mercy that is warm and true
Must lead a helping hand;
For those who talk, yet fail to do,
But "build upon the sand."

Miscellany

Words and their Use.

From Richard Grant White's new volumes bearing the above title, we quote a few paragraphs, showing a nice sense of discrimination, founded on practical views of the subject:

Aggravate should never be employed in reference to persons, as it means merely to add weight to—to make an evil more oppressive; injury is aggravated by insult. It is sometimes improperly used in the sense of irritate, as "I was much aggravated by his conduct."

Balance, in the sense of rest, remainder, residue, remnant, is an abbreviation. Balance is the difference between two sides of an account—the amount which is necessary to make one equal to the other. Yet we continually hear of the balance of this or that thing; even the balance of a congregation, of an army.

Bountiful is applicable only to persons. A giver may be bountiful, but his gift cannot; it should be called plentiful or large. "A bountiful slice" is absurd.

Fetch expresses a double motion; first from and then toward the speaker. It is exactly equivalent to "go and bring," and ought not to be used in the sense of bring alone.

Calculate, besides its sectional misuse for think or suppose, or suspect, is sometimes, in the particular form calculated, put for likely, or apt; "that nomination is calculated to injure the party." It is calculated (designed) to do no such thing, tho' it may be likely to.

Citizens should not be used except when the possession of political rights is meant to be implied. Newspaper reporters have a bad habit of bringing it out on all occasions when "person," "man," or "bystander," would express their meaning much better.

Couple applies to two things which are bound together or united in some way. "A couple of apples" is incorrect; two apples is meant.

Dirt means filth, and is not synonymous with earth or soil. Yet people sometimes speak of dirt road, or of picking dirt around the roots of trees they are sitting out. They mean earth.

Execute. When a murderer is hanged, his sentence is executed, the man is not. A man cannot be executed,—that is followed out or performed.

Expect looks always to the future. You cannot expect that anything has happened or is happening, but only that it will happen.

Get means to obtain, not to possess. "He has got all the numbers of the Christian Instructor." "Have you got good molasses?" "They have got bad manners." Why will people persist in introducing the word in such sentences as these, where it is so evidently superfluous.

Help meet. An abusive use of these two words as if they together were the name of one thing, a wife, is too common. The sentence in Genesis is: "I will make him a help meet for him," that is a

help fit for him. There is no such word as helpmeet.

Lie.—Lay. Persons not grossly ignorant sometimes say that they will lay (meaning lie) down, that they have laid (lain) an hour, or that the hammer is laying (lying) by the tacks. Lie means to recline; its past tense lay—"I lay there all that night"; its participles, lying and lain. Lay (used of present time) means to put something down—one lays a carpet; its past is laid—"I was interrupted while laying it, and it was not laid until night."

Love rules the heart, not the stomach. You love your wife, or ought to; but favorite articles of food you like.

Observe should not be used for say, as in the oft-heard sentence, "What did you observe?" Sit, often mispronounced set, is occasionally written so; but it is to be hoped rarely.

Tomatoes as Food.

It is known that the essence of the tomato, made into a pill, acts upon the liver, and to that extent must counteract biliousness and all forms of fever. The free use of figs is known to multitudes to obviate constipation, in a great many cases; every intelligent druggist knows that a table-spoon of white mustard seed, swallowd without chewing, is useful in the same direction, has been used for that purpose for a century, and for that reason, is kept in every good store for sale. The seed pass from the body unchanged, but are supposed "to act" on the bowels mechanically. The seeds of the delightful tomato act in the same manner; hence the fruit, while it is palatable to the taste, and nutritious to the body, has a health-promoting effect on the liver and the whole digestive system; and, yet, loose statement is made in some of the papers that "tomatoes are unhealthful. For they can cause salivation. Proof: A young lady lost all her teeth from the excessive use of tomatoes." The writer was salivated many times in youth, and yet, few persons of his age have sounder teeth, and more of them.

A young girl, two years ago, in Pennsylvania, from the excessive use of ice-cream, the fourteenth successful on the same evening, did not exactly lose her teeth, but she lost her life. General Taylor, while President of the United States, lost his life by eating "one more" successful of strawberries and cream. Many a man has died of a surfeit of roast beef.

If an article of food so delicious, so cheap, so abundant as the tomato, is to be banished from the table because once in a century, and once in a million of cases, its excessive use killed somebody, we shall soon have nothing to eat. The newspaper press owes it to the public and its own intelligence to keep such palpably loose statements out of its columns. This slapdash kind of way, which some writers have, regardless of common sense, ought to be universally discontinued by gentlemen of the press. [Hall's Journal of Health.

CURATIVE POWERS OF ICE.—The curative and relieving powers of ice are found valuable year after year. Small lumps of ice swallowed whole will often check acute stomach inflammation, and will prevent nausea, if heat is applied outside at the same time. Pounded ice applied to the spine is said to cure sea-sickness. A bit of ice will cure diphtheria and all other throat complaints. To become delightfully cool in summer, apply ice, wrapped in paper, to the back of the head for one moment.

TO CLEAN BRASS.—Rub the surface of the metal with rotten stone and sweet oil, then rub off with a piece of cotton flannel and polish with soft leather. A solution of oxalic acid rubbed over tarnished brass soon removes the tarnish, rendering the metal bright. The acid must be washed off with water, and the brass rubbed with whitening and soft leather. A mixture of muriatic acid and alum dissolved in water, imparts a golden color to brass articles that are steeped in it for a few seconds.

BEYOND PER CENT.—General Craft, one of our prominent lawyers, was hailed, while passing Freeman's jewelry store, by the proprietor, with, "General, come in here a moment; we have something for you to solve. If a man brings his watch to be fixed, and it cost me ten cents to do it, and I keep it a week, and charge him six dollars, what per cent. do I make? We have been figuring, and make it nine hundred per cent., and have only got up to one dollar. How much do you say it will be at six dollars?"

"Well," replied the general, "I do not wonder at your perplexity; for it is well known, and the celebrated Babbitt calculating machine has demonstrated, that in certain points in progressive numbers the 17 governing them changes. In this case the law would change, and long before it would reach the six dollars it would run out of per cent. and into what is known as 'larceny.'" [Editor's Drawer, Harper's Magazine for September.

Oudskoi, Siberia.

Long after sunset, November 25, we came in sight of six or eight low log buildings, thro' whose ice windows the light shone cheerily. This was Oudskoi. It is an isolated place, to which no one comes in winter. The only communication of the inhabitants with the civilized world is when a Russian supply ship comes to the coast to bring supplies and carry back the furs which are paid in as taxes. At the door of the residence of the ispravnik Swartz was greeted by an old acquaintance, the captain of a whaler. It was years since they had met in the service of the fur company, and neither had any idea of meeting the other.

The ispravnik and his guests were indulging in—pist nadast carpets—"fifteen drops of brandy"—when Father Ivan, the priest, joined the convivial group. His Reverence did more than justice to the fiery vodka, and soon grew free in manner and loose in talk. He is famous as a hard drinker and gambler. Sometimes it is necessary to ring the church bells three or four times on Sunday morning before he will interrupt a game of cards in order to perform his sacerdotal duties. Next day was Sunday. Father Ivan had not intended to hold service; but, learning that we had never seen the rites of the Greek church, altered his determination for our especial benefit. It looked oddly to see our jolly companion of the night before, dressed in a robe of blue silk embroidered with blue and gold going through divine service. It was touching also, to notice the congregation, who, at the close, sought the blessing of the priest.

Our hopes of a speedy departure from Oudskoi were not realized. The ispravnik tho' it would take two months to procure guides and the requisite number of deer. In the mean while he and his associates laid themselves out so earnestly to entertain us that we began to suspect that he meant to detain us all winter for the pleasure of our society. The second evening after our arrival a "technourka," or dancing party, was got up in one hour. The society of the place consisted of the ispravnik, the doctor, the acolyte, and four Cossacks, with four peasant women, the wives of the latter. The ladies wore calico dresses, with shawls pinned up so high as to cover the neck up to the ears; their heads being ornamented with the turbans of our Southern regiments. The dancing was vigorous, if not altogether graceful.

A few days after, the wife of the ispravnik presented him with a son. The Russian custom is to have but one godfather; but the proud parent was bent upon having five, in order that all of us might be included in the number. He finally reduced the number to three parts of the baptismal ceremony in which we oddly. At one point the god parents turned their backs to the priest, and in reply to the questions asked of them began spitting upon the devil in the name of the child—an emphatic way of renouncing the foul fiend and all his works. The infant was finally soused three times in the water. To us it seemed almost a miracle that it escaped drowning—it is expected that the godfather shall present the child with a crucifix and a gown. This was done by Father Ivan. It was intimated to Maloold and Swartz that they were expected to give a few rubles to the priest and the midwife, and also to pay for the candles; and, moreover that godfathers usually gave new dresses to the godmothers, and also a few rubles yearly to the godchild. I imagine, however, that the priest will not find himself greatly enriched from this source. From "Haber, Dogs, and Snow shoes," by A. H. Guernsey, in Harper's Magazine for September.

EFFECT OF A CONTINUED BREAD DIET ON MEN AND DOGS.—According to late experiments of Meyer, neither man nor dogs can be fed economically upon bread alone, an immense quantity of this substance being required to prevent the body from undergoing waste. By the addition of a small per cent. of fat a much less amount of total weight of food will answer the desired object. A persistence in the bread diet causes the tissues of the body to become more watery, and the entire organization is less capable of resisting injurious influences. In experimenting upon different kinds of bread, Meyer found that what wheat bread was taken up in the greatest amount during its passage through the alimentary canal; next to this heavenly rye bread; then the rye prepared by the Hordford process; and finally the North German black bread. With all these differences however, the first kind is said to be less satisfying to the feeling of hunger than the other three, and to be more expensive in every point of view. Meyer does not admit that bran has the nutritious value, claimed for it by many persons, since the nitrogenous compounds it contains are mingled with much non-assimilable matter. [Editor's Scientific Record, in Harper's Magazine for September.

Texas has a new game of cards—one holds a revolver, the other holds the cards. A corner holds the inquest.

GAME OF MEMORY.

The game of memory as practiced by the Ojibwas and Northern Indians, has been found profitable in schools, both for recreation and improvement, as a branch of object teaching. The Indian chief or teacher, in his rude way, has from twenty to fifty, or more, sticks, cut, made sharp, or pointed at the lower end, and split at the top an inch or two. These sticks are then planted around in a circle, a short distance from each other. Then various specimens of different substances (a single specimen in each stick at the top) are distributed around the circle in order of number—one, two, three, &c.

The Indians, or class, are then allowed to go round the circle slowly and take a strict and scrutinizing look at each specimen in the order of the numbers, one, two, three, and thus around the circle. This is done silently. The sticks, or specimens, are then removed and placed by the teacher, and then the class, on going round the second time, each one in order, is to tell the teacher, as far as possible, without mistake, what specimen it contained in stick number one, two, three, four, five, and so around the whole circle, if possible.

With the Indians the first specimens will probably be birch bark to make canoes, the second a little tobacco, the third the fur of a beaver, the fourth a bit of calico, the fifth the feather of a particular bird, the sixth the bone of some sort of fish, and so on, different substances in the different sticks "planted" around the circle. The one who can repeat without mistake up to the highest number receives the premium or reward. The consequence is, the perceptive faculties are called into exercise and each individual will soon learn to discriminate so sharply that he will be able to track a wolf on dry leaves in the forest, as well as a white man can track the same animal in the snow. They do it very readily by observation and sharp inspection, by first noticing a leaf with holes in it, the middle hole, or holes, a trifle larger and in advance of the other hole, or holes, near the central hole.

These two holes they know by observation, were made by the toes of the wolf, and they immediately stick down a stick by this first hole thus marked, and search for a second, and third, and fourth, and so on, putting a stick at each thus marked. By these sticks in a row they find the course the wolf was travelling, and travel on until they find where the animal had drunk at a spring, perhaps and then soon discovered his den among the rocks or cave-near by. By this mode of sharp inspection they become acquainted with the habits of wild animals, and also gain a knowledge of different plants and trees and turn their knowledge to good account for their own individual welfare. The writer has known a scholar by practicing this exercise, who was enabled to memorize a long lesson for a Bible class, and at the recitation, without the book, repeat it backward as well as forward, or give any particular verse called for; and he trusts that it may be made available in our common schools as a recreative and profitable branch of teaching.

How a Magician was Sold.

Signor Blitz relates the following "good one" on himself:

While conversing in a grocery store with the proprietor, at Louisville, Ky, an Irishman came in to make some purchases. The trader was extremely anxious for me to touch him by performing some feat, which I complied with. Before commencing I requested the loan of a quarter of a dollar from the proprietor, which he at first refused, and even when the storekeeper placed himself responsible for it he reluctantly gave it to me. I desired him to close his hand, and hold the money secure, and I would change it to a five dollar gold piece.

Faith, he muttered as he grasped the quarter, it was just as I would like ye to be after doing; but I don't believe ye can coin money so nifty. Let me see if you can do it! he excitedly exclaimed.

It is already done, I said. Open your hand and look.

The man cautiously relaxed his fingers, and at the first glimpse of the gold, jumped and hurrahd wildly, as an Irishman only can; but when his curiosity was entirely satisfied as to its reality, he carefully deposited it in his pocket, with many thanks, declaring me to be the most wonderful man in the world.

I here desired him to replace the money in my hand, and I would again convert it to the original quarter.

Sure, after Mike being rich, would ye make him poor again?

But you know it is only a trick, I answered.

A trick? Divil a one! Sure, man, it is a rare piece of goodly, thrusting his hand into his pocket, to protect it from any sudden or unperceived effort on my part to extract it.

You know it is but a joke, I repeated. Return me gold, and I will astonish you by transforming it into silver once more.

By St. Patrick, you had better not do that!

Yes, you must give me back the gold. I would not part with it were priest Mc Dermott to bid me.

Finding my efforts to procure the money a failure, I resorted to artifice by alarming his fears of my powers to do good or evil. I assured him that unless he returned the piece of gold, he would be a miserable man all his life, for it was Satan's coin, who was always around in search of his own, and would take him away with the gold.

Och, sure, your honor, the holy father will save Mike, and if ye want any more silver quarters to change into gold, come to Mike McCarty. He is the man for you. And with these consoling words, he walked rapidly away, leaving me with my half gale, while the storekeeper laughed immoderately at the magician being outwitted by a son of the Emerald Isle.

All Louisvilles became cognizant of the jokes as they called it, and hugely enjoyed at my expense; but I could not see it as such.

DOING HORSES.—Drenching a horse with fluid medicines, even if the latter are of an indifferent nature, like milk and molasses, is always very dangerous; but is extremely so, first, when the drench consisted of substances, for instance, oil or grease,—to which horses have a natural aversion; secondly, when the sick horse is suffering with a disease which is attended with hot breathing, like pneumonia, colic, &c.; and thirdly, when the fluid as is often the case, is poured down in a forcible manner; for in such cases it frequently happens that a part of the fluid enters into the larynx and goes down the windpipe into the lungs, and causes there an inflammation which frequently becomes fatal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ingenuous and thrifty Chicago gamins make money by imitating the warble of the cat under the window of nervous people, and selling the boots and bootjacks that are thrown at them.

An exchange insists that "poverty is a blessing." If it be so it is a blessing in disguise, and so well disguised that very few are able to see the point.

Detectives say there are \$10,000,000 of counterfeit national bank notes in circulation.

An Oregon toast, over a glass of ardent, is as follows: "Here's what makes us wear old clothes."

A Connecticut editor unkindly alludes to a rival editor's head as the Polar region, because it is a great white bare place.

The European debt of the United States, including government bonds, State bonds, railroad bonds, and mercantile dues, is estimated at \$1,500,000, which, at six per cent, requires an interest payment of \$90,000,000 per year.

There are now four hundred professional wood engravers in the United States. Thirty years ago there were not twenty.

A Savannah editor won a \$600 set of furniture in a raffle. Lucky chap.

Lads burned or otherwise injured on the Fourth July, are called "victims of patriotism" in an American newspaper.

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MONARCHS OUT OF BUSINESS.—The living European monarchs now out of business are: Europe Gustavus Vasa of Sweden; Comte de Chambord of France; Duke Charles of Brunswick; Count de Paris, grandson of Louis Philippe; Duke Robert of Parma; Grand Duke Ferdinand of Tuscany; Duke Francis of Modena; Francis the Second of Naples; widow of Otto of Greece; Duke Adolphus of Nassau; King George of Hanover, the Elector of Hesse; Princess and Empress Carlotta of Mexico; Queen Isabella of Spain; and the Emperor Napoleon the Third and Empress Eugenie of France.