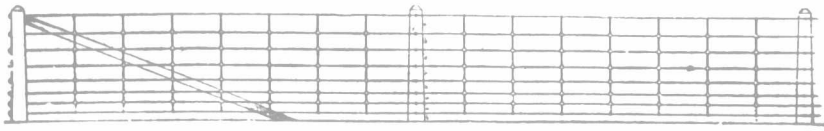


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GOSSIP.

Not merely the earth we live on, but our own especial life—our work, our study, our daily toil—may live in the light of God.

"Do you believe," she asked, "that a genius can possibly be a good husband?" "Well," he modestly replied, "I would prefer not to answer that question. But my wife ought to be able to tell you."

The office boy to a large firm of publishers was a smart lad, and when recently he was sent to one of the operative departments with a message he noticed at once that something was wrong with the machinery. He returned, gave the alarm, and thus prevented much damage. The circumstance was reported to the head of the firm before whom John was summoned.

"You have done me a great service, my lad," he said. "In future your wages will be increased \$1 weekly."

"Thank you, sir," said the bright little fellow. "I will do my best to be worth it, and to be a good servant to you."

The reply struck the chief almost as much as the lad's previous service had done.

"That's the right spirit, my lad," he said. "In all the years I have been in business no one has ever thanked me in that way. I will make the increase \$2. Now, what do you say to that?"

"Well, sir," said the boy, after a moment's hesitation, "would you mind if I said it again?"

At Cornell University all the mechanical engineering students have to learn seven trades. One of these trades, that of blacksmith, is very distasteful to some of the students, but it has to be learned all the same. One young fellow, who was unusually averse to soiling his hands, begged hard to be exempted from wearing the leather apron; but the professor took special care that there was nothing lacking in the thoroughness of his training at the forge.

Last fall the student went to the professor and thanked him for being compelled to learn blacksmithing. "You see," he said, "I am now superintendent of a mine away back in Colorado. Last summer our main-shaft broke and there was no one in the mine but myself who could weld it. I didn't like the job, but took off my coat and welded that shaft. It wasn't a pretty job, but she's running now."

"If I couldn't have done it, I'd have had to pack that shaft on mule-back and send it three hundred miles over the mountains to be fixed; and the mine would have had to shut down till it got back. My ability to mend that shaft raised me in the eyes of every man in the mine, and the loss raised my salary."

"Usually a cow does not stand much chance when she engages in a hand-to-hand conflict with a grizzly bear," said Michael Ayres, a Colorado stockman; "but several years ago one of my cows killed one of those animals and came out of the struggle without a scratch. The cow had recently given birth to a calf. It being her firstborn, the mother was exceedingly vicious, and it was unsafe for a stranger to approach her, as her horns were long and pointed. The cattle-shed had a thatched roof, and was scooped out of the hillside a short distance from the house.

"One night a bear, having smelt the presence of a cow and calf, mounted the roof of the shed and proceeded to force an entrance by scratching through the thatch. The cow at the same time detected the presence of the bear, and held herself in readiness to receive the intruder. The noise of a terrible struggle aroused me, and grabbing a lantern I rushed from the house, and opening the shed door found the cow in a frantic state, luttng and tossing to and fro some large object, which evidently had lost all power of resistance. It turned out to be a good-sized grizzly, which had been run through and through the body by the courageous mother. The little calf was nestled in a corner, sleeping peacefully, and seemed unmindful of the maternal struggle. I suppose that as soon as the bear gained entrance through the roof it was pinned to the ground by the cow's horns before it had time to do any damage."

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