

## The Poet's Corner.

## It Never Pays.

It never pays to fret and growl  
When fortune seems our foe;  
The better bred will push ahead  
And strike the braver blow.  
For luck is work,  
And those who shirk  
Should not lament their doom:  
But yield the play,  
And clear the way.  
That better men have room.  
It never pays to foster pride,  
And squander wealth in show;  
For friends thus won are sure to run  
In times of want and woe.  
The noble worth  
Of all the earth  
Are gems of heart and brain—  
A conscience clear:  
A household dear,  
And hands without a stain.  
It never pays to hate a foe  
Or cater to a friend,  
To fawn and whine, much less repine,  
To borrow or to lend.  
The faults of men  
Are fewer when  
Each rows his own canoe.  
For friends and debts,  
And pampered pets  
Unbounded mischief brew.  
It never pays to wreck the health  
In drugging after gain,  
And he is sold who thinks that gold  
Is cheaply bought with pain.  
A humble lot,  
A cosy cot,  
Have tempted even kings,  
For station high  
That wealth will buy  
Naught of contentment brings.  
It never pays! A blunt refrain,  
Well worthy of a song;  
For age and youth must learn this truth—  
That nothing pays that's wrong.  
The good and pure  
Alone are sure  
To bring prolonged success:  
While what is right  
In heaven's sight  
Is always sure to bless.

## About Cats.

"You are accused," said the Austin Recorder to the culprit, "of having fired a gun twice within the city limits. Did you kill or cripple anybody?"

"No, sir."

"It is a very serious matter to fire off a gun in the city limits and not kill anybody. Don't you know you are liable to be punished very severely for such carelessness?"

"Yes, your Honour; but there are some very mitigating circumstances."

"What are they, and how many of them are there?"

"They are cats, your Honour, and from the noise they make I should think there were about a thousand of them. They made a worse racket than Wash Jones and Ireland did when they had that joint gubernatorial discussion at Houston."

"So you are troubled by cats?"

"Yes, your Honour, they worry me nearly to death, and I fired at them twice. That's how I came to violate the city ordinance."

Recorder (brightening up):—"Come here, prisoner, I wish to consult with you confidentially. Tell me, how many did you kill?"

"Three with the first barrel and two with the second."

"Splendid! Glorious! What size shot do you use when you violate the city ordinance by discharging firearms within the city limits?"

"I use duck shot; it fetches them every time."

"I'm glad to hear that. I've been using a size smaller when I violated the city ordinance. Would you object to lending me your gun?"

"I will lend it to you with pleasure," replied the prisoner, "but your Honour must remember that you are liable to be severely punished if you shoot off a gun inside of the city limits and do not kill anybody."

"You can go, but do not let it happen again." [Texas Siftings.]

## Called her "Darling."

As the train pulled out of Charleston I looked around the car and saw that there were seven of us occupying whole seats, while the eighth was a pert-looking girl about 18 years old. I think the idea with the other six men was to get some sort of an excuse to share the young lady's seat. One offered to open the window, but found it open and fell back. A second offered her a book, but she had read it. A third handed her a newspaper, but she had the same issue. The fourth was a drummer from Cincinnati. He pulled his cap down, picked up his grip, and went to the door and banged it as if he had just entered. Then, rushing along the aisle, he plumped down beside the girl without a word, stowed his grip under his feet, and pulled out a paper and began to read. It was ten minutes before he said a word to her, but when the conversation opened she proved to be the most entertaining talker man ever listened to. She had travelled everywhere and seen everything, and had a laugh to make a man's heart jump. As the train thundered on the drummer made love, lied right and left, and seemed to have made a complete mash. She gave him her address, invited him to call, told him all about the family and permitted him to call her darling before we reached Savannah. He was to see about her baggage there, and while looking for it she slipped away. When we got to the hotel he suddenly turned as white as flour. She had bor-

rowed his diamond ring and still had it. She had slyly taken his gold watch and chain, and when he felt for his wallet his fingers clutched an empty pocket. He danced around like a crazy monkey, figuring his total loss at \$520, but he raved in vain. The entertaining girl who had permitted him to "darling" her, and who had solemnly informed him that she had never known what love was until then, could not be found by the police. It was a backhanded game.

## The Bug Exterminator.

In the spring of last year a smooth-tongued, glib-mouthed young man, who had gone through the lightning rod course, and graduated in the book agency business passed through Washington and the adjoining counties, introducing what he called the "bug exterminator." He was very fair and reasonable, and as he was only taking orders for his invention, he merely required one third (fifty cents) and the rest he would collect in the fall when he passed through. In case the exterminator failed to kill every bug upon which it was used, according to accompanying directions, he would refund the money. Nothing could be fairer than that, so he was well received everywhere, and went away with about \$300 in his pocket, leaving his address with every purchaser, in case he should neglect to send the exterminator. Well, in due course of mail, every farmer received a neat-looking little package labelled "Bug Exterminator—certain death—due \$1—none genuine without signature," etc. Upon opening it, the farmer discovered two nice, smooth little square blocks, containing the following directions on No. 1: "Place the bug on this block," and on No. 2: "Strike the bug violently with this block." The farmers were ready for him when the time came for him to return, but I need not say the time came on alone.

## What is Actually Meant by Many Common Phrases.

An attentive reader of newspapers says the Aitchison (Kan.) Champion, can see a great deal more than is set down on the printed page. For instance, an expression common in these days of nominations is, "While a portion of the ticket is not such as we should have nominated, we shall give it our hearty support." This means that the editor's most bitter enemy, who will give the printing to the other paper if he can, is on the ticket, and the editor hopes that the low down reptile may be beaten out sight. In the case of distinguished orators the remark, "The Hon. Mr. Blank was attacked with a sudden indisposition and did not speak" means that the venerable statesman was too drunk to hold his head up. The observation means the same thing when applied to the lights of the American stage. "We failed to catch the last words of the speech" means that eloquence at the critical period was drowned in "budge." "We regret we have no space to publish the gentleman's eloquent effort in full" means that, in the editor's opinion, the speech would have made a reflective mule leave his oats, and that it would be an outrage to print it. "We may refer to the address hereafter" means that the news paper man feels happy at getting out of it this time, and trusts that pardon may seize him if he ever mentions the matter again. In obituary notices congestion of the brain, when applied to a gentleman of easy views with regard to drinks, means delirium tremens, and "he was his own worst enemy" means that the deceased was a drunkard, and the worst enemy of the people who loaned him money. "He had his faults, who of us has not?" is an equivalent expression. In regard to performances, dramatic and otherwise, "those who failed to be present missed a rich treat" means that nobody was present except the holders of complimentary. "Owing to the inclemency of the weather the audience is not what it would have been," means that nobody would have there had the sky been as clear as crystal, and the "neighborhood been fanned by spicy breezes." In the way of dramatic criticism, "Mr. Montgomery shows some crudity and inexperience, which will doubtless disappear with time and study means that M. M. is a hopeless and irredeemable stick.

Of all the ills that flesh is heir to kidney disease is the most distressing. To sufferers, we can only say, take Dr. VAN BUREN'S KIDNEY CURE at once, and thus obtain a relief you cannot find elsewhere. All Druggists have it. J. Wilson Goderich 2m.

Ladies who suffer periodically from pains in the back will find immediate relief in a few doses of Dr. VAN BUREN'S KIDNEY CURE. It was never known to fail. Try it at once. Your Druggist keeps it. J. Wilson Goderich 2m.

If you are desirous to obtain immediate relief from any kidney trouble, and thus prevent the fatal results that always attend the neglect of these distressing complaints (and who does not?) why take Dr. VAN BUREN'S KIDNEY CURE at once. It is safe, simple and effectual. Sold by J. Wilson Goderich. 2m.

Dairymen, what shall the manufacturer of Thatcher's Orange Butter Color do or say to place its real merit so conspicuously before the people that every butter maker in the land shall once try and learn the value of these goods.

## Household Hints.

If you clean your mirror with a soft paper instead of a cloth, time and trouble will both be saved, as there will be no lint, and the glass will have a better polish.

A little powdered borax put in the water in which laces, muslins, and lawns are washed will improve their appearance greatly: use just as little soap as you possible can.

An entree of merit is made of cauliflower. Cut it in very small bits, and put it in a pudding dish with layers of bread-crumbs, use pepper and salt and little lumps of butter, as for scalloped oysters. A cup of rich sweet cream improves the dish. When ready for the oven pour enough hot water over it to thoroughly moisten the bread crumbs, and to allow a little more. Serve hot.

An ingenious way to make a pair of vases appear to be larger than they really are is to get two blocks of wood, in size and shape about like a quart-bowl, leaving a space large enough to set the vase in and have a little margin; cover them with plush and put one at each end of the mantle. Curious vases of bronze or brass show to good advantage on these little pedestals. The vase must be large enough to give an impression of strength and safety. A round piece of plush may be used to cover them, laying it in plaits when it is necessary.

A pretty hair pin box is made by taking four of the Japanese fans, which are about four or five inches across. Tie the handles together close to where they join the fans. Their handles make four little legs for the boxes to stand on. Catch the fans together with a few stitches of black thread, and you have a delicate but very pretty ornament for dressing table. If you use fans a trifle larger than those mentioned here, a small pasteboard box can be set within, and so it can be used to put small articles of jewelry in.

## A Miracle of Honesty.

At a party one evening, several contested the honor of having done the most extraordinary thing: a reverend gentleman was appointed judge of their respective pretensions. One produced a tailor's bill with the receipt attached to it.

"The palm is his," said one. "I cannot boast of that, but I have just returned to the owners three lead pencils and two umbrellas that were left at my house."

"I'll hear no more," cried the astonished arbitrator. "This is the very acme of honesty. It is an act of virtue which I have never known any one capable of doing before. The prize—"

"Hold!" cried a third. "I have done more than that."

"Impossible," cried the whole company. "Let us hear."

"I having been taking my county paper for twenty years, and have always paid for it in advance."

He took the prize.

## How They Looked.

On the Jefferson avenue line the other day a man with an umbrella and a woman with a basket were the only occupants of a car for several blocks.

The man not only stared at her, but rested his umbrella on his chin and took a long look. She was first nervous, then vexed, and by-and-by she cried out:—

"Why do you stare at me in this rude manner?"

"I am not staring at you to be rude, madam, but simply to study you."

"Well, I want you to stop it?"

"Certainly, madam; but I assure you that I was regarding you in the light of a piece of statuary."

"That's all right, sir, and I have been regarding you in the light of a baboon, but we'll both quit regarding or one of us will walk the rest of the way home."

He turned his head and regarded the back end of the horse in the light of a beautiful landscape, but it didn't seem to really satisfy his artistic longings.

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## A General Stamped.

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