

September 18 '901

ONE FRIEND OF THE SPARROWS.

He Cities Many Good Deeds Done by the Chatterbox.

I see in magazines and papers so many articles denouncing the sparrow that I feel it my duty to tell of my 35 years of close companionship with this little chap. While I read the accounts of his alleged murders and depredations on other birds, I have yet to see any such disgraceful acts on his part, writes A. L. Fraser.

My experience with him has proved to me that he is the farmer's best friend. He is the first little fellow in the spring to pounce on and destroy all the caterpillars and insects that are destructive to the farmer's crops, and he keeps pecking away at these vermin until the grain is ripe. Then the crops are so far advanced that they are safe. All he then asks in return for the benefit he has been to the farmer is a little grain to carry him through the fall and winter.

So few know the reason for the introduction of the English sparrow to this part of the world that I wish to give it. Many years ago the streets of New York were lined with beautiful trees. In the spring, as soon as they began to put on their summer foliage, they were attacked by an ugly-looking green worm called the inchworm. These would devour all the leaves, leaving the tree perfectly bare, and then hang from the trees in millions by a silken thread. They became such an intolerable nuisance that a great many people had the trees cut down to get rid of them. After the introduction of the sparrow, this nuisance ceased to exist. He did his work bravely and well. This certainly is a proof of the benefit he is to the farmer. You can depend on it that he destroys more harmful insect life in proportion than he takes back in pay for what grain he eats. While now and then there may be cases of disgraceful acts on his part to other creatures, he has always behaved himself in my presence.

At this writing he is living in peace with the catbird, robin, brown thrush,oriole and many other birds in and around my premises. The little chap cheers us with his presence and cheery note all winter. Thousands of them are killed off by deep snow, cold and want of food. Not only is he a benefit to us in the way above mentioned, but he is a shield, a protector to all the other birds, in that he gives up his life to tramp cats, hawks and the boy with the rifle. If he were not with us, surely all the other birds would have to suffer. I saw an article in one of our magazines advising the wholesale destruction of the sparrow with grain soaked in poisoned water. What a terrible combination that is to get in the hands of some idiot who would use it and destroy numberless other feathered songsters. Last winter one of my neighbors soaked corn in poisoned water and scattered it for the destruction of crows. He killed a bevy of quail. I saw the dead birds. Besides, many other birds have suffered with the quail.

Before condemning this little chatterbox make your home with him summer and winter, and the more you see of him the more you will see his value to the farmer, and you will find on the long, cold and dreary days in the country in winter, when all the other warblers are in the sunny south, these little innocents will brighten your pathway with their cheerful notes.

Rattlesnakes.

From the effective character of their weapons of offense and defense, rattlesnakes have a great advantage in the struggle for existence against all animals except man and his domestic companion, the pig. Hence in unsettled localities in North America they are abundant, especially in the warm regions of the south and west. In many places they are the most abundant species of snake, as, for instance, on the plains, where no species is as often seen as the Crotalus confluentus. That they have been much more abundant in many wild parts of the east than at present is indicated by the great quantities of their bones which are found in the caves of the limestone regions of the Mississippi valley. The pig, as is well known, will destroy and eat rattlesnakes with impunity. It is said that the poison is not sufficiently introduced into the circulation to cause death, owing to the thick adipose layer with which the domesticated pig is covered.

A Little Incongruous.

An English paper says that soon after Lord Galloway entered the British house of lords he was presumed so far upon his relationship to the Marquis of Salisbury as to write to Disraeli to ask for the office of master of the buckhounds, and he was favored with a reply which read somewhat as follows:

"I am sorry that I cannot recommend you for the office of master of the buckhounds, as her majesty dislikes having anybody connected with the royal household who uses bad language, but I will recommend you for the lord high commissioner to the general assembly of the Church of Scotland."

Hitting His Pa.

Wicked Willie—Paw, I was good yesterday and went to Sunday school when Tommy wanted me to go to Solmer park and see the monkey in a cage. Ain't you going to give me something for it?

Paw—No, my son; you should be good because it is right to be good.

Wicked Willie—Ah, gwan! Didn't you tell me the last time you licked me that you didn't want your little boy to grow up good for nothing?

Caged Baby Girls.

In Polynesia baby girls of a year old are placed in wicker cages, and in cages they remain until the time they are married. Happily the children do not seem to mind much, and they grow fat and healthy. At the age of 12 years or thereabout most of the little damsels leave their cages to be married.

Johannie and George.

Teacher—Why do we all love George Washington?

Johannie Jones—Cause dere ain't no school on his birthday.

The man who elbows past women for the purpose of getting a seat in the car never crowds a lady out of her pew in church.

There are some men who always impress one as having been the kind of babies that had to take worm lozenges.—*Atlantic Globe.*



In Two Minutes

They'll be another car. But the man can't wait. He chases the car and swings on, panting and hot, but satisfied. He keeps this gait up all day. He works that way, he lurches that way. He continues this until his stomach "breaks down" and nature compels him to "go slow."

Business men who have impaired their digestion by hasty eating will find in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery a cure for dyspepsia and other diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition. It does not give mere temporary relief, but it effects a radical cure. It strengthens the stomach, nourishes the nerves and purifies the blood.

"For six long years I suffered with my liver, kidneys, and with indigestion, which baffled the best doctors in our country," writes E. L. Russell, Esq., of Woolsey, Prince William Co., Va. "I suffered with my stomach and back for a long time, and after taking a cart-load of medicine from three doctors, I grew so bad I could hardly do a day's work. I would have deathlike pains in the side, and blind spells, and thought life was hardly worth living. I began taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and 'Pleasant Pellets,' as advised. Before I had taken half of the second bottle I began to feel relieved. I got six bottles and used them, and am happy to say I owe my life to Dr. Pierce and his medicines."

A Clever Chinese.

"An amusing thing occurred while I was at Yokohama," says a recently returned traveler. "An official notice of the government which had been published in the Japanese newspapers said that all Chinese who desired to depart must do so by a certain date or else remain until the war was over. Thereupon, Ah Shing, a big clothing dealer of 16 Water street, called all the Chinese together, and they all agreed to go. They got their goods to the dock, and financially aboard the steamer, with themselves, and the steamer pulled out. At the last minute it was found that the wealthy merchant had held his goods and slipped back to the city. He at once resumed business, having got rid of all opposition merchants, and is now rolling in riches."

After Thoughts.

About the queerest thing in the world is other people's notion of what is funny.

Better be content with your privacies than make trouble by insisting on your rights.

It would be shocking to think that our neighbors has as poor an opinion of us as we have of them.

In making up our minds we sometimes find that the material at hand is not what is best suited for the work.

Little things should not annoy us, of course; but it does seem that for the man who drums the arm of his chair and taps the floor with his foot, a dunce can be the proper place.

Stopped a Mountain's Journey.

A Lausanne correspondent writes that the Swiss engineers have succeeded in arresting the progress of the Moving mountain, near Neuchatel. The measures taken to save the village and valley from destruction were extremely daring and original. They consisted in building a huge cement wall to hold up the mountain, whose sides were full of small crevices, those also being filled with cement. By these means the mountain became firm and most of the danger has passed.

Carrier Pigeons in Armies.

Eight thousand trained carrier pigeons are used by the German army.

The first English steel pens were sold at 30 shillings each.

When your burden is heaviest, you can always lighten a little some other burden.

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THE LEAVES.

Up go the leaves in a merry blaze
Through the shining autumn day
To blend in the rustling, sunny haze
And ride on the wind away.

They have done their duty the summer long;
They have gathered an ample store
To feed the buds of the mother trees;
Now their busy life is o'er.

But by and by, when the May winds blow
And the spring verdure weaves,
In field and garden will bloom again
The souls of the autumn leaves.

—Youth's Companion.

CHARACTER IN SMOKING.

Fanciful Theories About Habits of Tobacco Users.

A man may possess a most secretive nature; he may have a face as destitute of meaning as a stone wall and a manner of speech absolutely noncommittal, but watch him over his cigarette; note his manner of holding it between his lips or his fingers; see how he puffs the smoke out of his mouth, what he does with the ash, if he consumes the cigarette to a mere stump or throws it away half finished, and, sure as fate, you will read his character like a book. Cigarettes, I said, are much better character revealers than a pipe. A man sticks a pipe into the side of his mouth and puffs away, and there's an end of it. You desist, and puff very violently, which is a certain indication of a nervous, irritable temper. From the filling of a pipe, to be sure, many luminous little hints may be gathered. You see a man stuff his bowl quickly and lavishly, letting loose threads of tobacco dangle over the bowl while he applies the match. If he is not good natured, quick to make friends, quick to forget them, I shall be much astonished. One notices men very often taking their cigars from an upper waistcoat pocket into which they have been stuffed. Too poor to buy themselves a cigar case? Not a bit of it, but too untidy to keep one or too lazy to arrange their cigars into one. And the same men almost invariably bite the tip off their cigars instead of using a penknife or a cigar clipper, a shocking habit that not merely soils the mouth with tobacco grit, but disarranges the outer leaf, often spoiling an otherwise excellent smoke.

The cigar once happily prepared for smoking, observe how your man holds it between his teeth. But stay! The operation of lighting has been so interesting, and the tobacco pipe grips his cigar not merely with his teeth when applying the match, but with the finger and thumb of his left hand also and between every third puff draws the weed from his mouth and examines the glowing end in order to make sure that it has been ignited equally all round.

The majority of men hold their cigars between the front teeth and puff the smoke out on either side of it. A large minority hold them on a dark night, you catch sight of the gleam and protruding just below the ear. Others, again—and these, as a rule, are persons of viraculous temperament—seldom keep their cigars for two consecutive moments between their lips. They take a few puffs, and then the cigar is given a rest between finger and thumb.

A man of determined character, energetic, pugnacious, a disputatious, often betrays himself by virtue his cigar an upward tilt while consuming it—a favorite method with the Yankee, to whom the above epithets are distinctly applicable. The contemplative, dreamy individual will let it droop toward his chin, while the level headed person—and fortunately they form the vast majority—hold theirs horizontally. Naturally impatient he frequently attempts to remove the cigar from their mouths when speaking to you, while others of a sullen, brooding disposition chew the end into horrible pulp. And is there anything more eloquent of singleness than the habit, largely indulged in by Germans, of sticking the stump of a cigar on the small blade of a penknife and consuming it until the glow almost touches the lips?

Fooled by a Woman.

Conductors don't always triumph. The other day a sweet faced little matron on a Castro street car looked up at the knight of the punch with a bewildering smile and said:

"I haven't a cent with me, but my husband is to get on at Powell street, and he will pay you. That will be all right, won't it?"

"Certainly," said the conductor, ringing up a fare, and he looked happy for several blocks.

When the car reached Powell street, she was the first to get off and was on the sidewalk before the conductor had recovered from his surprise.

"The nerve of her!" he said. "It's a wonder she didn't ask for a transfer."

Virtues of Goat's Milk.

Goat's milk has the advantage over cow's milk of being free from tubercle bacilli and can be taken quite fresh. Contrary to general opinion, the taste is not disagreeable if the animals are properly selected and properly kept, being considered of a more delicate flavor than cow's milk. The quantity of fats, casein and salt varies greatly in the different varieties of goat. For infants and dyspeptics the weaker milk may be chosen, while the stronger answers better for delicate subjects.

Nye and Riley.

When James Whitcomb Riley and Bill Nye traveled together, giving a joint entertainment, the humorist had great fun with the poet. Once, in introducing Riley and himself to an audience, Nye remarked, "I will appear first and speak until I get tired; then Mr. Riley will succeed me and read from his own works until you get tired."

Undoubtedly.

First Passenger—I wonder why we are making such a long stop at this station?

Second (a traveler of experience)—I presume it is because no one happens to be trying to catch the train.

The most satisfying things in life are love and sympathy. But these, like fame, must come spontaneously and indirectly if they come at all and not be sought as a specific end or direct aim in themselves.

Hope is the malapropist that makes a man's wheels go round.—Chicago News.

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If you have this awful disease you are in danger until completely cured; the various symptoms you notice should be a warning to take immediate treatment. Don't put it off until too late, as it continually gets worse. If you have sore throat, patches on tongue or mouth, swollen glands, hair falling out, blotches on body, itching skin or other signs of this awful disease call on us. We give you a written guarantee to cure you by our LATEST METHOD TREATMENT Without Mercury or Potassium, and you

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