

Miscellaneous.

A Sad Story.

WHY GOVERNOR CURTIS HAS A KINDLY FEELING FOR TRAMPS.

"I do not believe in encouraging beggary," said Governor Curtis, of Pennsylvania, "but when a hungry man calls at my door, he is going away unsatisfied. That has been my principle for a good many years, and I wish it always had been. Every one in town knows that I feed tramps, and yet I do not have a dozen calls in a year."

"I've heard some sad stories, I assure you," he continued, "and I have learned that a good dinner, when a man is discouraged and friendless, may save him from crime or suicide. Twenty years ago my buildings were burned, and as I then thought, by a tramp whom, the day before, I had turned away when he asked for dinner."

"I had the man arrested, and after he had served three years at hard work in the State prison, a stable-boy confessed to have set the fire by smoking. I have been trying to atone for that injustice ever since, but the poor fellow only lived a year after he was out of prison."

"I have five men in my employ who came to town as tramps, and they are faithful, efficient, workmen. And there's John S.—there's a man about here more respected to-day than he is. Fifteen years ago he begged a dinner at my house. He'd been unfortunate, hadn't a cent, and was completely despondent. He has told me since that the dinner saved him, for he had grown fairly despondent, and was resolved, if turned from my house, to go to the bad and turn thief."

"I don't want to boast of my good works, but it's a very pleasant feeling to know that you've helped a brother man call at his feet again. And then I don't suppose that I should have been Governor if I hadn't been the friend of poor men. You know they call me the 'tramp's Governor,' and I'm proud of the title. I don't encourage beggary, as I said before, but I encourage a brother man to get so reduced that he must beg his way, he'll find me ready to help him with a dinner, and a friendly word. No man wants to be down at the foot, and if he gets a chance, he may start again and come out all right."

Neither does the writer, to whom Governor Curtis told this story, believe in encouraging beggars, but he does believe in being ready to help an unfortunate brother up instead of down.—*Yonkers' Companion.*

SACRIFICING OF A CAT.—In a suburban town, near a large city, a young man residing with his parents, occupied a position in a large bookstore in the city. This store was infested with rats to such an extent that the stock was in danger of being destroyed or rendered unusable. The young man, knowing that in his home a cat and two kittens were wasting their time in sleeping and playing, requested his mother to give him one of the kittens to take to the store; but she refused, thinking that the kitten would surely be killed among so many rats. He then asked for the loan of the mother pussy. She said he would take good care of her and bring her back in a few days. The mother, knowing that the cat could hold her own with an army of rats, consented. He put her in a basket that had a cover, tied the cover down, and took her to the city on the top of an omnibus—it was before the day when her car was. When she reached the store, he let her out in the cellar. She made havoc with the vermin for a few days; but one Monday morning the young man found that the foot left for her Saturday night had not been touched, and she could not be found on the premises. He went home very much disturbed that he had lost the valuable house cat. After about two weeks the cook in the family early one morning opened the kitchen door, and there sat poor pussy, worn almost to a shadow, so emaciated that the girl was not sure that it was the family cat. There was another son in the family who had always petted this favorite, and he came and called her by name. She seemed perfectly delighted. There was no longer any doubt of her identity; and as she was taken into the house and cared for, and in a few days became domesticated and very happy. She lived to a good old age, but was always a mystery how she found her way home, as she could not tell. This is a true story, and truth is sometimes more strange than fiction.

HOW A WOMAN MADE MONEY.—A Washington lady, forming the loss of her income, trimmed her sails to the threatening breeze. She carefully considered her capabilities, and, early in the spring, decided to put her energies into the making of preserves, pickles and jellies. She knew ladies of social prominence and secured their names as references. She had circulars printed, which she sent to people likely to respond with orders, and she put her advertisement in a few newspapers. She received orders enough to guarantee her enterprise, but presuming on further sales, she made about thirty gallons of pickles of various kinds, and 350 glasses of jelly and jars of fruit. As an experiment to test their popularity, she made a dozen cans of branched peaches, apricot currants, plum-plums, sweet pickled melons, stuffed mangoes, ketchup and chow-chow. She spared no pains, attended personally to the marketing, procured the best fruit as fresh as possible before it lost the taste of the sun, and made everything with exquisite neatness. She put her jellies in pretty molds, and even lettered the labels attractively. Her energy and courage brought a success that warrants her enlarging the business.—*March Ladies' Home Journal.*

—Human life is estimated to have lengthened twenty-five per cent. during the last half-century. "The average human life in Rome, under Caesar, was eighteen years," says D. Todd, of Georgia, "now it is forty years. The average in France fifty years ago was twenty-eight, and the mean duration in 1887 was forty-five and one-half years. In Geneva during the thirteenth century a generation played its part upon the stage and disappeared in four hundred years; now the drama requires forty years before the curtain falls. During the golden reign of Queen Bess, in London and all the large cities of merry old England, fifty out of every one thousand paid the last debt to nature yearly, which means, instead of three score and ten, they were aged but one score. Now, in the city of London, the average is forty-seven years."

—Iron baths are not an impossible luxury even to the poor. All you need is to fill a bath with bran, let it soak in your bath for a while, then squeeze the bran holding it under the water. The water soon becomes opaque and then is your time to step in. When you step out your skin will feel like marble.

Games of Youth.

EXERCISES WHICH INJURE AND EXERCISES WHICH BENEFIT.

Playing marbles and all games that bring the face and hands forward and down tend to degenerate children in many ways, says a writer in *Home and Garden*. In the first place, the position cramps the vital organs, narrows and shortens the frontal thoracic cavity, and widens, lengthens and bends the back, which is just the reverse of what is desired. It also makes the head shoot forward, all of which are injurious to health and morals. Then, too, these games lead to children a slovenly habit and a fancy for "chasing." Jumping rope should be vigorously eschewed, for the girl's games. It possesses not one single merit, and is always attended with injury. A little later in life woman's modern ailments are attributed to the climbing of stairs, but truly springing from rope jumping.

Flying kites is good for the boy and the girl, too, as that brings him into the fresh air with his face toward the blue sky, his arms back and up. Then, too, he may use his poor neglected left hand. This erect position gives expansion to the entire torso, and healthy activity to the vital organs and bronchial tubes, and develops a fine symmetrical physique. Now see the volume of fresh air that can be taken into the lungs. Under these favorable conditions the mental and moral may make rapid advancement. There may ride, walk, climb, trees, play garden games, trim shrubbery, care for plants, and boat row with her brother.

When Dancing is Wrong.

If you are wise, if you hope that the future holds much for you, you will want to be particular as to your partner in dancing. Dance with no man with whom you have only a ball-room acquaintance, and if you really are anxious to gain the respect of the people, in your own set, you will number among partners only your own brothers, or some very intimate friends.

It is all very well to say there is no harm in dancing. There isn't. But there is harm in having about you, a sweet, pure girl, girl, kept as much as possible from the wickedness of the world, the aim of a slow man who may be a profligate, and not possess the first instinct of a gentleman. He may, as you say, dance divinely, but even for a partner in a round dance, more than that is required. My little girl, dancing indiscriminately will teach you to forget how young and pure she is, and that knowledge degrades one of your greatest charms. Dance, singing and merry, but remember, not only does the world judge us by the company we keep, but just as you and I are made better and nobler by being with those who are true and good, so we are innately made meaner and poorer in heart and brain when we consort with those of less degree in morals.—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

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Farm Notes.

Cull the flocks and herds, and sell or slaughter non-paying animals.

Never set eggs from a hen that lays underdeveloped or badly formed eggs. The size and quality of eggs are quite as important as number.

Despite horse farming? Well, that is partly the trouble with agriculture. For years it has been considered even by farmers themselves as a calling that anybody could follow, with some experience. It is both an art and a science, and the man never yet lived who knew all that might be known about farming.

The admirable practice of sending poultry undrawn to market now finds little favor anywhere. Not many years ago poultry was not to be purchased in New York city if not sent with its contents undrawn; but there is now little demand for poultry in this condition. It is known that putrefaction begins very quickly after death in the contents of the stomach, and the poison is absorbed by the flesh, making it unfit for food. Keeping it in ice only arrests decomposition, but does not remove the danger where it existed before.

There is no way of curing hens from eating eggs, but to prevent them by mechanical means is easy. A nest with a double bottom, or upper the inclined as to allow the egg to roll to the lower one, answers well, but the habit is one that is always acquired and therefore a lasting one. Hens learn by being in the presence of broken eggs, but they rarely break eggs themselves, and so the habit is not easily taught. If the nests are arranged so as to keep the eggs out of their reach they will forget the habit, if fed liberally with meat for a while, but the safest plan is to cut out the heads of such fowls before the habit becomes general with the flock.

MANURE AND COAL ASHES.—The recent experiment as to the value of coal ashes for sandy soils reads very curiously to one who closely examined it. The experimenter applied about twenty loads of coal ash to two acres, and afterwards, with a light dressing of manure, secured a good catch of clover where clover never grew before. In this case to what is the success due, to the ashes or the manure? If part of the land had been treated with only the application of manure would have a lot. As it is, most farmers will believe the credit due to the manure, whose value they know, rather than to the coal-ashes. The potato in wood-ash is valuable for sandy soil, and on very light sand even coal ashes may be beneficial in preventing the soil from blowing away.

Do not let horses' shoes remain on over three to six weeks, dependent on the amount of use and the toughness and growth of the hoofs. Each time after taking off the shoes, if the road permits, let him go barefoot as long as he is fully followed, and let the hoofs grow to a very good, perfect condition. Some horses can be used barefoot, or on pavements, for months, or the whole year round, and work better than if shod. Never allow the frog of the foot to be cut or trimmed unless some one that is well acquainted with the horse, and as it acts as a cushion to the foot and lessens or even prevents the bruising when striking a stone or other hard substance. See that the hoof is not pared beyond absolute necessity, and that the shoe is properly fitted to it, and not the shoe to the hoof. Do not allow the bottom of the hoof to be burnt or scorched with a hot shoe, in order to make it set evenly, but pare it properly to do so. Always use the lightest shoes compatible with the condition of the roads and the work required of the horse.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

It is not claimed for the apple that it is a complete food in itself, but on the food list it possesses a value far above the nutrients it furnishes. Apples aid the stomach in the digestion of other foods, and, therefore, the best results are obtained by eating them after, rather than before, meals, says a writer in the *Country Gentleman*. If one feels that he has eaten more dinner than is compatible with his after comfort, and that an apple will facilitate an early digestion and afford greater relief than an alcoholic drink or a drug store prescription. Adapting this same theory to all kinds of live stock, horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and even poultry, we find that the apple prompts them to eat apples, and that they receive the same benefit therefrom that we do; that is, the fruit is a partial food, and it also aids them to digest and assimilate from 25 to 50 per cent. more food than they would otherwise be able to assimilate."

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EXERCISES WHICH INJURE AND EXERCISES WHICH BENEFIT.

Playing marbles and all games that bring the face and hands forward and down tend to degenerate children in many ways, says a writer in *Home and Garden*. In the first place, the position cramps the vital organs, narrows and shortens the frontal thoracic cavity, and widens, lengthens and bends the back, which is just the reverse of what is desired. It also makes the head shoot forward, all of which are injurious to health and morals. Then, too, these games lead to children a slovenly habit and a fancy for "chasing." Jumping rope should be vigorously eschewed, for the girl's games. It possesses not one single merit, and is always attended with injury. A little later in life woman's modern ailments are attributed to the climbing of stairs, but truly springing from rope jumping.

Flying kites is good for the boy and the girl, too, as that brings him into the fresh air with his face toward the blue sky, his arms back and up. Then, too, he may use his poor neglected left hand. This erect position gives expansion to the entire torso, and healthy activity to the vital organs and bronchial tubes, and develops a fine symmetrical physique. Now see the volume of fresh air that can be taken into the lungs. Under these favorable conditions the mental and moral may make rapid advancement. There may ride, walk, climb, trees, play garden games, trim shrubbery, care for plants, and boat row with her brother.

When Dancing is Wrong.

If you are wise, if you hope that the future holds much for you, you will want to be particular as to your partner in dancing. Dance with no man with whom you have only a ball-room acquaintance, and if you really are anxious to gain the respect of the people, in your own set, you will number among partners only your own brothers, or some very intimate friends.

It is all very well to say there is no harm in dancing. There isn't. But there is harm in having about you, a sweet, pure girl, girl, kept as much as possible from the wickedness of the world, the aim of a slow man who may be a profligate, and not possess the first instinct of a gentleman. He may, as you say, dance divinely, but even for a partner in a round dance, more than that is required. My little girl, dancing indiscriminately will teach you to forget how young and pure she is, and that knowledge degrades one of your greatest charms. Dance, singing and merry, but remember, not only does the world judge us by the company we keep, but just as you and I are made better and nobler by being with those who are true and good, so we are innately made meaner and poorer in heart and brain when we consort with those of less degree in morals.—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

HOW CAMPBELL IS MADE.—*Golden Days* tells us that campbair is made in Japan in this way: After a tree is felled to the earth it is cut into chips, which are laid in a tub over a large iron pot partly filled with water and heated over a slow fire. Through holes in the bottom of the tub steam slowly rises, and heating the chips generates oil and campbair. Of course the tub with the chips has a closely fitting cover. From this cover a bamboo pipe leads to a succession of other tubs with bamboo connections, and the last of these tubs is divided into two compartments, one above the other, the dividing floor being perforated with small holes to allow the steam to pass from the upper compartment to the lower. The upper compartment is supplied with a straw layer, which catches and holds the campbair in crystal in deposit as it passes to the cooling process. The campbair is then separated from the straw, packed in wooden tubs and sent to market. The oil is used by the natives for illuminating and other purposes.

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MANURE AND COAL ASHES.—The recent experiment as to the value of coal ashes for sandy soils reads very curiously to one who closely examined it. The experimenter applied about twenty loads of coal ash to two acres, and afterwards, with a light dressing of manure, secured a good catch of clover where clover never grew before. In this case to what is the success due, to the ashes or the manure? If part of the land had been treated with only the application of manure would have a lot. As it is, most farmers will believe the credit due to the manure, whose value they know, rather than to the coal-ashes. The potato in wood-ash is valuable for sandy soil, and on very light sand even coal ashes may be beneficial in preventing the soil from blowing away.

Do not let horses' shoes remain on over three to six weeks, dependent on the amount of use and the toughness and growth of the hoofs. Each time after taking off the shoes, if the road permits, let him go barefoot as long as he is fully followed, and let the hoofs grow to a very good, perfect condition. Some horses can be used barefoot, or on pavements, for months, or the whole year round, and