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SOCIAL ODDITIES.—THE OLD LADY.

Although we do not rank ourselves among the number of those persons who place implicit reliance upon the wisdom of our ancestors nor are we disposed to believe that the world is degenerating, still there are certain relics of the past, certain landmarks as it were, which serve to point out that at one period a state of society existed totally different from our own, which we cannot regret are rapidly and silently passing away.—Among the number of these may be classed certain old ladies, strange combinations of prejudice and good nature who maintain that morality declined with the abandonment of hoops, and that to the disuse of hair-powder and the growth of the national debt may be attributed many of the evils with which poor frail humanity is burdened. Such a character as this must be familiar to the recollection of most of our readers, and one of these it was our good fortune in early childhood to know—alas! that we should say was; but such characters are now only to be classed with the mammoth, the megatherium, and other fossil evidences of an extinct era.

Our lady resided for many years in the small country town in which we first saw the light, and occupied one of the best houses in its long straggling High street. Her principal sitting-room contained a large bay window, which commanded a view of nearly half the town; and here the old lady might be seen during the greater part of the summer afternoons, either engaged in knitting or receiving visitors. As she was in affluent circumstances, her house was furnished after the most approved taste of sixty years, since and contained such stores of old china and antique furniture as would have driven a collector mad with sheer envy.

Over the chimney-piece of the best room hung a portrait in crayons of her late husband, whom she had survived many years but of whom she always spoke in terms of deep and earnest affection, telling those with whom she loved to converse of him that the only individual whose manner and appearance could by any possibility have rivalled him was Sir Charles (transmission). Opposite this portrait hung of the old lady herself, attired as a shepherdess, with a number of superlatively woolly sheep staring innocently in her face. An antique timepiece of Dresden china occupied a bracket in one corner of the room, and this we remember to have been one of the "bobbies" of our juvenile days, inasmuch as the top of it was occupied by a frightful human face the eyes of which rolled horribly synchronous with the beat of the pendulum. From this room our old lady used punctually to migrate on the twenty-ninth of October, on which the day the fire was lighted in a small back parlor, where she took up her winter habitation until the twenty-ninth of April when the fires were again extinguished. No degree of cold in the intermediate period would have induced her to deviate from her ordinary custom; indeed it was high offence and grave misdemeanor even to hint at being chilly and was sure to entail upon the offender a long lecture upon the degeneracy of the boys and girls of the present day. The old lady seldom stirred from home, except to take her daily airing which she invariably did; and, in spite of wind or weather, Peter the coachman, who had grown gray in her service, was expected to be at the door precisely as the clock struck twelve, with the old ark (drawn by two fat black Flanders mares) which was dignified with the name of a carriage. Peter had a great opinion of the powers of his cattle, and had contrived to impress his mistress with the same idea as she used invariably to adjure him not to allow the horses to run away although they had never been known within the memory of man to move at the rate of more than three miles an hour. The old lady seldom visited but took great delight in receiving parties of juveniles at her own house, upon which occasions her factotum Mary and herself used to prepare all sorts of curious cakes and sweetmeats, and decant sundry bottles of currant-cowslip wines, were never permitted to see the light but upon these festive occasions. Frequently however, there were assemblies of a larger growth, when the silver tea-urn emerged from its seclusion, and the Pope Joan board was dusted; and Madeira, which the old lady used to boast had made six voyages to the East, rejoiced the hearts of the visitors. Twice a year she used to visit our house, when she might have been seen about four o'clock in the afternoon trotting leisurely down the street, attired in a black satin cardinal trimmed with rich lace, wearing high-heeled shoes, and carrying on her head one of those extinct pieces of millinery called a calash, which gave her at a distance the appearance of an old-fashioned leather-hood gig. A long gold-headed stick completed her walking costume. Punctually at eight o'clock Mary arrived with the lantern

and her mistress's cloak and the old lady might be seen sailing majestically along the street in the broad light of a sultry summer evening, muffled to the chin in her paduasoy cloak, preceded by Mary carrying the lighted lantern.

She was particular in her observance of all the older customers, and all the high and holy days of the calendar. Her kitchen always boasted an enormous mutton at Christmas, and of this young people seemed well aware, as they were always sure to find their way there.

She used to give the boys half a crown to hang a Guy Fawkes opposite her window on the 5th of November; and despite her kindheartedness, could not help avowing her conviction that "it served the fellow right." All Hallow's Eve was likewise a great occasion; and all the mystic spells and observances were gone through with the greatest formality.

Nuts were burned, sixpences dived for in buckets of water, sieves full of nothing carefully winnowed, and hempened duly sown, by her young guests. With all her good qualities, however the old lady entertained an unquerable aversion to every species of modern innovation and improvement. She disbelieved in the existence of balloons, considered travelling at the rate of twenty miles an hour as impious, and deemed the Thames Tunnel an absolute defiance of Providence. The tranquil and easy life which she had led for many years was now unfortunately to experience a great change. The inhabitants of our town, who had gone on dozing comfortably in their arm chairs, year after year, without troubling themselves much about the affairs of mankind in general, suddenly awoke one fine morning to the knowledge of the fact that the march of improvement had left them considerably in the rear of the rest of the world. Anxious, therefore to make up for lost time, they eagerly began setting about various alterations in the established state of things, to the great annoyance of many persons of the old school, and to none more than our old lady. She could not see what they wanted with a new market-house or a new bridge over the river; the old ones were quite good enough; and as for lighting the town with gas, she would believe it when she saw it but not till then. Certainly, a cart and horses had backed over the bridge only the week before, in consequence of the ruinous state of the parapet, and the roof of the market-house had been blown off during a violent storm in the past winter and had never been replaced; but the old lady did not take these circumstances into consideration, nor did she choose to remember that the mail turning the corner of High street had knocked down and seriously injured an applewoman, owing to the inefficient lighting of the town. It was sufficient to her to know that her old associations were to be destroyed to render her very uncomfortable. She did not object, however, to give twenty pounds towards the repair of the church organ; and the first Sunday it was played upon after its restoration she was so affected that she had to be led into the vestry by the pew opener. In the mean-time the improvements proceeded, and the old lady contented herself by prophesying that no good would come of them; and, as if to corroborate her assertion, on the day on which the new market-house was opened, an unfortunate child was killed by tumbling off one of the walls upon which he had mounted, in order to obtain a view of the procession of the mayor and corporation.—When the old lady heard of this, she observed that she had always said so, and the mayor and corporation might rest easily in their beds with that poor boy's death upon their consciences. Unfortunately, this small triumph did not check the progress of innovation; an alteration followed another in rapid succession, until she fairly took her bed through sheer vexation, from which she never arose; for, upon the evening on which the mayor of the town lighted the first gas-lamp with much ceremony, the old lady died full of years, honors, and vexation; and, according to the testimony of the county newspaper which recorded her demise, "deeply and universally lamented by the inhabitants of the village of C—, of which she had been for the last sixty years a respected resident."

[Great Gun.]
Highly Injurious to Mothers.—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is the only thing that you can rely upon to give rest to yourself and relief and health to your infant.

A Frenchman named M. Blondin has successfully accomplished the feat of walking on a tight rope across the Falls of the Niagara. There was about ten thousand spectators. The time in crossing the chasm from the American to the Canadian shore was 17½ minutes. He returned at a much quicker pace.

Plumer, the junior mutineer, has had his sentence of death altered to imprisonment for life, by the President.

Lecture on Physical Education.

There was a large audience, including many of our most distinguished citizens and their families at the Music Hall last evening to hear the lecture by Dr. George B. Windship, of Roxbury on Physical Education, illustrated by some astonishing feats of strength. The articles used in these feats had been on the platform all day, and persons who were in the hall in the afternoon attending an association meeting, took the opportunity to examine the weights and ascertain that they were indeed what they seemed ponderous iron.

Dr. Windship was received with hearty applause, and stated that he would perform one or two experiments before commencing his lecture.

There was a framework on the platform, beneath which were eight 100lb. weights on a bar and chain weighing 26 lbs. Thro' the upper link of the chain attached was a stick, crosswise, and while standing over the weights, on the frame, Dr. Windship grasped the stick with both hands, and lifting it, one hand behind and the other behind, and lifted the 826 lbs. three times clear off the platform. Another 100lb. weight was added, and he lifted 926 lbs. clear, amid great applause.

Dr. Windship, deferring other experiments commenced his lecture by showing that, although there had been many advocates of physical education, yet it had never been rightly understood. He then referred to the fact that every adult breathes 24½ lbs. of air daily, and infuses it with carbon and gas—a deadly poison. God has placed an ocean of air over us, and yet we preferred to forget that to have pure blood we must have pure air. Two instances of the effects of heedlessness to physical laws were given—one, that of a child overtaken and confined too much at school; the other that of a man breaking down his constitution by incessant laborious application, without rest, or exercise, or air, seeking only wealth.

He then spoke in a most eloquent manner of the beneficent, physical, moral and mental results which proceeded from a thorough physical education. Physical education could not commence too early, but it was never too late to commence it. He had even known of one lawyer who commenced the practice of gymnastics at 70 years of age.

Dr. Windship then gave an account of his own experience in gymnastics, commencing with his 17th year, at college, where in two years, his health was greatly improved. This training was the result of a desire to place himself on an equality with one of his classmates, who had arrogated to himself a certain superiority, but declined the final combat. Since then he had been constant in his practice. Gymnastics he showed, had their abuses, from persons not properly trained, trying to out-do others. Exhaustion and weariness should never be allowed to come. Lifting was a neglected branch, on account of the tendency of people to injure themselves by too late to commence it. He had even known of one lawyer who commenced the practice of gymnastics at 70 years of age.

Galer had calculated that the hips and legs could support two or three tons. There were other ways of lifting by which large amounts could be lifted. Not long since, with his hands and back together, he had lifted 1,500 pounds. There was a vast difference between lifting and sustaining. He would not advise any one to train themselves up to lift over 500 pounds with the hands, or 2,000 with straps. He had gone beyond that to ascertain what could be done. Totten and the Belgian giant were the only persons he had ever learned authentically to have lifted 800 pounds. Totten lived 100 years ago, and was thirty years old when he lifted it. Dr. W. said he had five years to that, and he hoped to train himself to lift 1,600 clear.

Next to lifting, dumb bells were useful. One of his own weighed 141 pounds, and others 100 pounds each. The rings came next. He had never practiced over half an hour a day, all that was sufficient to exercise the muscles. He was 5 feet 7 inches high, and weighed 153 lbs. In reference to practicing, he would say try no feat twice on the same day, if it was found to tire or exhaust in the slightest degree.

He proceeded next to speak at length of the anti-dyspeptic tendency of developing the muscles, of the effect in producing cheerfulness, of the value to women of moderate gymnastic practice and of the suppression of gymnastics in some of the German States because of their tendency to cultivate a spirit of individual freedom and of resolution to oppose oppression.

The meaning of "success in life" was defined not to be a general, or a postmaster, or a member of Congress, but to enjoy normal development of all our faculties. All men had an opportunity to develop their physical

system, no matter what their occupation may be.

The lecture proper occupied an hour in its delivery, and contained some passages of remarkable eloquence.—[Boston Traveller.]

Depth of Plowing.

A good deal of discussion has been had upon the proper depth of plowing for different soils and crops, but the question seems as far from being settled as ever. Those who advocate uniform deep plowing may not be far from right, if the soil is first fitted as it should be for the operation. As long as the soil turned up is suitable for growing good crops, we may send the plow "down to the beam" with advantage, but a cold, lifeless soil, containing elements injurious rather than beneficial to growing vegetation, cannot profitably be brought to the surface for that purpose.

There can be little question however, that a deep fertile soil will produce much the largest and best crops. There must be room for the roots to go down beyond the reach of drouth, and to find appropriate food for their life, and this is most largely present in a deep, mellow soil. If a soil is shallow, it is usually wet, and the presence of water is almost invariably the cause of its shallowness. Let it be underdrained in a thorough manner, and it soon loses this wet, shallow character, and may then be plowed, deepened and manured, until it becomes deep and fertile, and fitted for growing profitable crops.

Sandy soils do not often acquire a very fertile character, because they are too light and porous to hold manure. Not needing to be made more loose and friable, they do not need deep plowing, but rather a course of treatment which will tend to consolidate both soil and subsoil. Our present remarks refer more particularly to loams and clayey soils. If then, we underdrain our wet soils, we may soon give them the deep plowing requisite to large productiveness. If we relieve them of stagnant water, the solid, lifeless undersoil, will soon become a warm quick soil, fitted to receive and retain manures—fitted, in short, for thorough and profitable culture in different farm crops. The only questions then, in regard to the depth of plowing, will be—what depth of soil does the crop intend growing require, and how deep shall we turn under green-sward or barn manures to get from their decomposition the best growth of crops?

These questions we may again take up—whether we do or do not, they are open for discussion to our readers, and we shall gladly give space to all well considered articles on the subject.—Cultivator.

Atrocities of the Coolie Trade.

The Hong Kong Press publishes these startling revelations of the manner in which the Portuguese carry on the Coolie trade.—"On the 4th of April Pingking waited on Mr. Alcock, the British Consul at Canton, with numerous petitions from all the trades in Canton—dealers in foreign goods, in the precious metals, in wood, in lead, in tea—no end to guilds. The petitioners prayed for foreign interference; the tale they told was frightful, and the wonder is the Cantonese do not treat the Portuguese as they did at Ningpo. Many of the principal people at Canton have suffered the loss of relatives, who have been kidnapped in the streets and on the river. Chinese runners are of course employed. There are depots on the river at various points, in the shape of flower boxes. Into these were the victims decoyed. Thence they were induced to go to Whampoa, where intimidation was used, and the victims starved into acquiescence."

The poor girls who sell fruit on the river have been hailed alongside and treated in the same manner. In one instance a company of musicians were hired to play, when they were seized and carried off! Some have actually been carried off in the open street, close to the Houn factories. The captors are paid \$20 each for them, and the captured are principally received on board of and conveyed to Macao by the Portuguese steamer Shamrock, owned by the enterprising Superintendent of Police at Macao. The Chinese assert that she has carried down some gagged. If so, we suppose she charges extra freight. On their arrival at Macao they are put into a barracoon, and starved or otherwise intimidated into compliance. It is true they have to be visited by the Portuguese before shipment, for the purpose of collecting the emigration tax, but as testimony of the captors predominates, and as proof of previous acquiescence is the desideratum, the proceedings are a farce.

In the new postal arrangements in Canada all unpaid letters are chargeable with an additional fine of two cents.

The whole of the Iron rails sunk in the Kennebec last year have been recovered by Messrs. Walker & Co., Railway Contractors.

A FUNNY SKETCH.—A Hoosier, an awful ugly man, relating his travels in Missouri, said that he arrived at Chickenville in the afternoon, and just a few days before there had been a boat bursted, and a heap of people scalded and killed one way and another. So at last I went into a grocery, a squad followed in, and one bowed and said:—

"It's one of the unfortunate sufferers by the Franklin."

Upon that he axed me to drink with him, and as I put the tumbler to my mouth, he stopped me of a sudden.

"I beg your pardon stranger, but—"

But what?" sez I.

"Jez fix your mouth that way again."

I done it jest as I was gwine to drink, and I'll be hanged if I did't think they'd all go into fits. They yelled and booped like a gang of wolves. Finally, one of the gang sez, alluding to me:—

"Don't make fun of the unfortunate; he's hardly got over been blown up yet. Let's make a puns for him."

They then all throwed in and made up five dollars. As the spokesman handed me the change, he axed me:—

"Where did you find yourself after the explosion?"

"In a flat boat sez I."

"How fur from the Franklin?"

"Why, sez I, I have never seed, but as nigh as I can guess, about three hundred and seventy-five miles."

You'd ought to see that gang scatter.

Spanish Nobles in the 16th Century.

From this life of splendid dissipation they were nothing loth to escape into the country, where they passed their days in their ancestral castles, surrounded by princely domains which embraced towns and villages within their circuit, and a population reaching sometimes to thirty thousand families. Here the proud lords lived in truly regal pomp. Their households were formed on that of the sovereign. They had their majordomos, their gentlemen of the bed-chamber, their grand equerries, and officers of rank. Their halls were filled with hidalgos and cavaliers, and a throng of inferior retainers. They were attended by body guards of one or two hundred soldiers. Their dwellings were sumptuously furnished, and their sideboards loaded with plate from the silver quarries of the New World. Their chapels were magnificent. Their wives affected a royal state. They had their ladies of honour; and the pages who served as cupbearers knelt whilst his mistress drank. Even knights of ancient blood, whom she addressed from her seat did not refuse to bend the knee to her.—[Prescott's History of Philip II.]

The following Regulations for the Harbours of LEPREAUX and NEW RIVER in the Parish of Lepreaux, have been made and established by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County of Charlotte.

I.—That all vessels lying in the harbours of Lepreaux and New River, shall be under the directions of the Harbour Master there, and the Owner, Master, or other persons having charge of any such vessel, who shall disobey the orders of the said Harbour Master, touching the lying, fastening, berth, or removal of any such vessel, shall for each and every offence, forfeit and pay the sum of Twenty shillings.

II.—The Harbour Master to direct where the ballast is to be laid, and no ballast shall be landed in the Harbour without his permission and direction.

III.—The ballast is to be hove out on the East side of the Harbour, between Hagg Point and Saltkiln Island.

IV.—Any Master or Commander of any ship or vessel who shall refuse or neglect to obey or conform to the directions of the Harbour Master, shall forfeit and pay the sum of Five pounds for each and every offence.

V.—The Harbour Master shall be entitled to demand and receive from the Master, Commander, or Consignee of every ship or vessel (coasters excepted) that shall anchor at Lepreaux, five shillings for all vessels above fifty tons, and not exceeding one hundred tons, and ten shillings for all vessels above one hundred tons, as Harbour Master's Fees.

VI.—All vessels lying in the Harbours of New River and Lepreaux, the Ballast Ground to be between New River Island and Barnaby's Head.

VII.—For removing any ship or vessel from the Ballast Ground to the place of loading, 20s.

PETER CASSIDY,
Harbour Master.

When a certain worthy laird had his head knocked off in the Scotch troubles, his housekeeper in a tone of commiseration remarked:—It was no great thing of a head to be sure, but it was a sair loss to him."