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PLAIN WORDS WELL HANDLED.

The Secret of the Greatest Successes in Literature.

Nothing is more astonishing in literature than the meager variety of words to be found in the production of great writers. The same words recur time and again in Shakespeare. His noblest flights of fancy and his finest outbreaks of passion are expressed in simple terms that are daily in use in every intelligent American household. Addison, a prince of writers of graceful prose English, employs few words that the average school child does not understand and cannot define. The simplicity of the language in the "Pilgrim's Progress" is proverbial, yet it is sufficient to portray emotions ranging from the agonies of remorse to the raptures of the redeemed. The phraseology of Swift and Goldsmith, except when technical subjects are under discussion, is almost as limited. The Bible is largely a repetition of a few simple words.

Mastery of language consists in the proper arrangement of words rather than in a multiplicity of words. The use of simple terms is evidence of the highest art. It is the sole way, indeed, as a rule, in which the firmest and widest impressions can be made. To attain such a command of speech depends in large measure upon the possession of imaginative faculties. Metaphor is frequently a substitute, not only for large words, but for many words. It suggests rather than depicts, and from its peculiar measure makes necessary the employment of terms that are readily understood. It should not be forgotton, also, that there are few pursuits that demand a varied vocabulary. Many of the technical terms used by a lawyer are of little practical worth to a physician, or a merchant and vice versa. It is questionable also if the the English language is not worse for the multitude of unnecessary adjectives that have crept into it from one source and another. "Junius" looked upon adjectives as if they were personal enemies. Macaulay used them under protest. There is a peculiar force in the familiar observation of Thomas Hobbes —"Words are wise men's counters—they do but reckon by them—but they are the money of fools."

PARADOX OF THE NORTH POLE.

At the North Pole it is Impossible to Move in Any Direction but South.

At the North Pole there is only one direction—south. One could go south in as many ways as there are points on the compass card, but every one of these ways is south, east and west have vanished. The hour of the day is a paradoxical conception, for that point is the meeting place of every meridian, and the time of all holds good, so that it is always any hour one cares to mention. Unpunctuality is hence impossible—but the question grows complex, and its practical solution concerns few.

No one needs to go to the pole to discover all that makes that point different from any other point of the surface. But the whole polar regions are full of unknown things, which every Arctic explorer of the right stamp looks forward to finding. And the reward he looks forward to most is the approval of the few who understand and love knowledge for its own sake, rather than the noisy applause of the crowd who would cheer him, after all, much as they cheer a winning prizefighter, or racehorse, or political candidate.

The difficulties that make the quest of the pole so arduous have been discovered by slow degrees. It is marvellous how soon nearly the full limits of northward attainment were reached. In 1596 Barents discovered Spitzbergen in about 78° north; in 1770 Hudson reached 80°; in 1827 Parry, by sledging on the ice when his ship became fast, succeeded in touching 82° 45'. Since then all the enormous resources of modern science—steam, electricity, preserved foods and the experience of centuries—have only enabled forty miles of additional poleward advance to be made.—McClure's Magazine.

People Who Fall Safely.

A fall, as a rule, injures a drunken man much less than a sober one, because, the controlling power of the mind being rendered nil through intoxication, the body falls as an inert mass, and thus the chances of injury are lessened, for, strange though it may appear, it is no less a fact that the most numerous cases of injury arising from a fall are caused by the effort, voluntary or otherwise, to avert the consequences, thus straining the muscles and tendons. Very rarely are injurious effects from a fall known in a lunatic asylum, for the same simple reason—the mind has no influence over the action of the body. And it is a remarkable and well-known fact to those who have to deal with such cases, adds the Boston Herald, that whatever injuries are so caused heal much more rapidly than in the case of sane people, the mind having more to do with retarding or assisting nature's efforts than is generally known or realized.

What Language Did Christ Speak?

A fascinating problem that has long engaged the attention of philosophers is the determination of what language was spoken by Christ—whether it was a dialect of Hebrew or a Hebraistic form of Greek. The controversy that arose as the result of the varying conjectures of biblical scholars is revived by the publication of Alexander Gardner's little book entitled "A Short Proof That Greek was the Language of Christ." Mr. Gardner takes issue with Renan and other illustrious semitic students and declares that in Christ's time Hebrew was a dead language, and the version of the Scriptures with which the people of Palestine were familiar was in Greek.

The Chinook Winds.

It is only within a few years, one might almost say months, that the wide effect of the warm, moist effect of the Pacific winds called Chinooks has been known in British Columbia and Alaska. These winds, corresponding exactly to those that make England a fertile country in the latitude of Labrador, keep the snow melted from the plain at the eastern base of the Rockies, and they encourage a magnificent growth of root crops, cabbage, oats and grass a thousand miles north of New York. Wheat does not do well and berries are small, though little attempt has been made to cultivate fruit. The winters are biting cold, but dry, and the summer, though short, is so hot that vegetation comes out of the earth with a rush.

Was the Boy Irish?

A schoolboy the other day, being told to describe Jacksonville, Fla., said: "It is a great summer resort in winter."

But He is the Leader of the 400.

Ward McAllister is something more than an ass and a drink mixer after all. Ward's latest ebullition of blithering idiocy is relieved by one assertion which marks him also a roue. He says: "The demi-monde are not often met in the fashionable drives of New York, but with that exception we have everything to make New York as attractive as Paris." Ward has long merited the attention of the fool-killer, but it seems he is also a fit subject for those other eminent New Yorkers, Anthony Comstock and Dr. Parkhurst, as well.—Chicago Times.

THERE IS MONEY IN IT.

If Your Poultry Do Not Pay Well Let the Women Take Charge—Then See the Change.

When it has been proved over and over again that there is money to be made in keeping poultry, why it is that so few farmers get any of that money? I suppose there is a good many reasons, but none of them are good ones. Occasionally a farmer finds that the poultry paid pretty well, so he resolves to extend the business, and the way he goes about it is to double the number of hens, but not to duplicate the accommodations for them. The house, rather crowded before, is now packed full, the hens being compelled to roost on everything available in the house. What is the result? The house gets full of lice as soon as spring opens; the hens do not lay well, nor hatch well; disease attacks them, and disgust with the whole business causes the farmer to neglect them more than ever. Now if this same man had increased his stock of cows or pigs, or sheep, he would have provided accomodations suited to the increased number; he would not have been guilty of such foolishness as trying to crowd two animals into a space not too big for one. If he had used the same judgment in providing extra room for the extra number of hens kept, he would have found a profit in keeping them. Another reason why some farmers fail to make the hens profitable is, that they do not half feed them. They have the ridiculous idea that the hens should "get their own living" by eating "bugs" in summer, and what grain they can pick up in the barn yard in winter. The idea of feeding them as regularly as the rest of the farm stock does not strike them favorably; when they throw the hens a quart or so of corn and see how quickly it disappears, the cost of feeding them assumes large proportions. A remedy for this is, to let the wife or daughter have entire charge of the hens; give them a good house to keep them in and all the feed they ask for, with the understanding that the feed is to be paid for at market price and all money received from the sale of poultry and eggs over cost of feed is to go to the benefit of the person in charge. This is an unfair arrangement towards the wife or daughter, for the feed should be as free to the hens as is the feed for the other farm stock, but better make this arrangement than none at all, for it will result in having a profitable lot of poultry.

The lot of pullets I bought last fall shows how little feed the poultry gets on some farms. These pullets were old enough to lay, but were very poor, only weighing two and three-quarter pounds apiece. They cost me just 29 cents a head. Was there any profit to the grower of these pullets, selling them at that price and in that condition? After I had them about four weeks three or four of them commenced laying; it astonished me to see how soon they began to improve in appearance under liberal feeding and care. Why can't we all recognize the fact that what is worth feeding at all is worth feeding well? The half-fed animal is the one we always lose money on. And no stock will pay so big a dividend on the investment as hens.—Stockman and Farmer.

Exchange Beneficial.

Farmers intelligently exchanging farm products for commercial feeds, even at the same prices per ton, may secure not only an increase in feeding value, but also a gain in fertility. Market conditions do not recognize differences in the fertilizing constituents of feeds.

Sweet Corn Profitable.

Corn, either field or sweet, is the best crop a farmer can raise, but I find sweet corn far more profitable to raise, easier to handle and quicker turned into cash than field corn. I expect to raise this season 20 acres of corn, one-half of which will be sweet, which I have to draw six miles to the factory, otherwise I should raise sweet corn entirely.—Herman D. Robbins, Madison County, N.Y.

Cutting of Timber.

Durability of timber is increased by timely cutting. Even white birch cut in July and August in full leaf will remain sound for two years or more. Cut in March it will hardly last through the season. White birch will make fairly durable bean poles if cut in mid-summer. Dr. Jabez Fisher, of Massachusetts grape fame, uses chestnut logs for trellis stakes, and contracts that the trees shall be cut in late summer when in full leaf. The stakes are also stronger. Water-seasoned lumber is durable probably because the water washes out the destructive acids of the sap. Logs cut in winter that cannot be sawed until there is danger of decay or damage from insects are safely preserved if thrown into the mill-pond.

To Grow the Finest Tomatoes.

Very little hand hoeing is necessary if you make your rows straight and keep the weeds down by thorough horse cultivation. It may be well to pick off a few of the blossoms, thereby insuring larger, finer fruit, but I have never found anything but harm result from leaf pruning. The sun will scald the fruit badly, both in the North and in the South, and the largest, finest specimens are invariably made under thick leaves. The fruit rots badly when it rests on the ground, but we have found stakes in large quantities expensive work. The better remedy is plants of upright, stocky growth. This is one of the virtues of the Dwarf Champion, the vine resembling a potato vine. But the best sorts of tomatoes are coming also to possess this quality in great measure. The best varities, well tested at present, both for home and market use, are the Early Essex, Hybrid, the Dwarf Companion, Climax, Matchless and Ignotum. The two latter are larger than the others. I have used paris green in solution to kill the worms and found it effectual. This was done when the fruit was very small and the fruit wiped as crated.

Farm Notes.

Timothy hay and oats are expensive feeds. It does not follow because a farmer raises these crops that he should feed them, when other products, equally useful, may be purchased at a less cost per pound of actual nutriments.

The feeding value of plants differ. Oats, corn and hay possesses different food values. Some kinds of food produce fat, some muscle and some wool, hair and milk. Nature cannot be fooled in the matter of feeding. The successful stock feeder must study the different food values.

With an ordinary grass crop, the loss of water while curing hay in the field may be from 2 to 5 tons per acre; the loss is larger in the clovers than in the grasses (Illinois Bulletin 5). The loss in weight by drying after storing may be from 200 to 400 lbs. per ton.

A Clever Dodge.

A curious device for "working up" the sale of a book is reported in The London Author. It was given out that a noble of high degree had resolved to marry the exact counterpart of a certain heroine of romance. Of course the marriagable girls all bought the romance to see what the heroine was like. Hence much profit for the author.

Johann's Legacy.

From a last will. "My faithful servant Johann is to receive 2000 empty wine bottles, the contents of which he drank during my lifetime."

A WONDERFUL SEARCH-LIGHT.

On the Summit of Mount Washington—Visible Over a Hundred Miles.

The use of the electric arc in search-lights is familiar to residents of New York and adjacent towns. At times election returns, racing and sporting returns and other announcements awaited with curiosity by the public have been shown by a preconcerted system of flashes from the search-light in the dome of the Pulitzer Building. The revolving search-light on the apex of the Madison Square Garden tower is also a familiar sight. But these are only minor examples of the arc in search-lighting. One of the great triumphs on this line is on the summit of Mount Washington, 6300 feet above sea level.

Mount Washington is the highest mountain of the White Mountain range and many difficulties had to be conquered in the setting up of the plant, the highest ever erected except in mining operations in the far west. A tower was first put on the very highest point of the mountain. It is 50 feet high and tapers to 14 feet at the top. It was built of eight 9-inch spruce timbers, reaching from the foundation to the top, and the whole tied together by iron straps and bolted, and the frame work chained down to the rocks on the mountain. With all the precautions which have been taken, so severe are the rain and wind storms, the moisture penetrates the building and makes the condition of operating the dynamo excessively severe. The dynamo is of the Thomson-Houston spherical armature type, and in spite of the severe conditions owing to the dampness gives complete satisfaction. The search-light is one of the attractive features of the summer season in the White Mountains, besides this, poised at this extreme elevation, it is of great scientific interest and many new problems in signalling and the study of the scientific use of searchers may be solved by its aid.

It is difficult to gather accurate figures as to the distance from which the Mount Washington light has been seen. At Portland, eighty-five miles away, telegraphic conversations have been held, the search-light flashing out a message and the operator repeating it by ordinary telegraph back to the mountain. Many towns 100 miles away have reported seeing it, and on one occasion it was seen at Pigeon Cove, Cape Ann, on the coast of Massachusetts, 116 miles distant. At twenty miles the light is so bright that type can be clearly read and the time on a watch easily told. At this distance the light is almost too bright to be looked at comfortably.—N. Y. World.

That East Indian Statue.

I was much amused at the freedom with which a group of Daisy Millers examined the statue of an East Indian Princess. It was life-like in its costume, olive pallor of complexion and attitude of leaning over a table as if reading an English journal which lay there. The girls felt of the rich texture of the blue silk robe, criticised the yellow damask satin scarf, the flowered silk trowsers and embroidered shoes, and pronounced it a darling just as it lifted its eyes in well-bred astonishment and asked in fairly good English: "Can I of service be to you, ladies?" The girls giggled and retreated, and I would have given much to have read the thoughts of that East Indian statue.

Improving the Rhine.

The German and Swiss Governments have entered into an agreement for the improvement of the navigation of the Upper Rhine, commencing from Lake Constance. The completion of the work as planned will take 14 years and the outlay is estimated at $3,312,000.

LAPPS BECOMING EXTINCT.

Yet They Show Eight Generations of a Family at the World's Fair.

When the next world's fair is held it is not probable there will be any Laplanders present. Ten years ago there were 27,000 Laplanders. Now there are only 11,000. Death and amalgamation are making away with them as a distinctive branch of the human family. Ethnologically this may be the truth. It doesn't seem to agree very well with what old King Bull, the head of the Midway colony, claims for himself and family. Bull says he is 112 years old. His son, Bals Bull, he says, is 90 years of age. Bals Hygd Bull, the grandson, is 73. Bals Hygd Bull has a daughter 59 years old, and her son is 41. The grandson of Bals Hygd Bull has a son 29 years old. The daughter of this 29-year-old Bull is 14, and she has a little girl 2 years old. Thus, it appears, according to old King Bull, that eight generations of this family are living. Old King Bull, however, is a tough nut. It will not do to judge the Laplanders by him. He has located "a cave" not far from Lapland, on the Midway, and he has tried several times to drink all of the beer in that cave. The last time the Laplanders were invited to some gathering on the Midway old King Bull had such a head on him he wouldn't trust himself outside of the village. The Lapps were anxious to go and old King Bull said they might if Reilly would take care of them; he would trust them with Reilly, but with nobody else. Reilly is a young Columbian Guard from Dubuque. His beat is the Lapland village and he has completely won the old chief's confidence. So Reilly chaperoned the Lapps for a ride on an electric railway. And in the party were the five red-cheeked, dark-haired, bright-eyed Dalcarien maidens who belong to the highest nobility in Lapland, and who came to the fair to weave hair ornaments, play the guitar and embroider as they do where the sun never sets in summer.

These nomads of the north look rugged. They may be as long-lived as old King Bull claims. But they are the Indians of the North Pole region. They are being driven out of existence, just as are the North American aborigines. Settlement by more civilized people is forcing the Lapps farther and farther to the north. It is taking possession of their lakes and their reindeer pastures. Some of the Lapps accept the changed conditions and lose their identity. Others cling to the life of their forefathers, maintain the purity of the blood and fall back into the mountains of the north. Of this latter class are old King Bull and his colony brought to the world's fair. They have with them their belongings, even to seventy tons of moss to feed the reindeer during the stay.—Correspondent St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Architectural.

The Chinese pagoda is a development of the pointed tent, the Egyptian temple of the cave dwelling.

Carthage was 45 miles in circumference, situated on a peninsula. On the land side there were triple walls guarded by towers so large that the basement of each contained stalls for over 300 elephants.

So great are the acoustic properties of the Mormon tabernacle at Salt Lake City that it is averred that the sound made by a pin dropped in a plug hat at one end of the building is distinctly audible at the other.

The distinctive form of American architecture may be seen in the modern office building now so popular in most of our large cities. It combines in the highest degree utility with elegance and is at once a model of convenience and beauty.

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