Miss Armour

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The Nut-Shell.

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THE NUT-SHELL

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This miniature journal is printed from the smallest type ever manufactured, being cast and imported from Europe especially for this publication. It is a marvel of mechanical skill, and a fair index of the rapid advancement of the typographical art. This, and future numbers, should be carefully preserved as they will prove not only a curiosity, but will furnish for reference a large amount of valuable information not to be obtained elsewhere.

TRIALS WHICH ADAM ESCAPED.

No doubt it was a severe affliction to old Grandfather Adam to be turned out of Paradise, though there are two sides to every question, and perhaps he was not wholly wretched over it. We are not going to argue that point at present.

What we want to get at is the fact that, though Adam lived so long ago, when the world was young, he escaped a great many troubles and trials which beset the modern man.

He had never to wrestle with a set of false teeth which did not fit, and would not fit, and which fell, in spite of the smiling dentist's assurance "that they looked perfectly natural, sir," more and more like a lumpy in his mouth every day.

He did not have any pretty girl neighbor, young and more blessing than Mrs Eve, who made him wish, whenever he looked at her, that he had waited a little longer before settling for life.

Nobody asked him to subscribe for a cyclopædia.

Nobody asked him to give a hundred dollars to a minister.

No friend wanted his name on a little bill, just for thirty days, as a mere form, you know.

Nobody wanted to insure his life or sell him a sewing machine, or a new kind of soap, or a patent churn, or a liver pad, or a new fangled apple parer, or a prim package of stationery.

Nobody wanted to put lightning rods on his house. Chromo peddlers had not then begun their travels. Organ grinders did not pursue him with their hats held out. Bills for French millinery and "sundries" never clouded his brow.

He had never hankered after a 2:20 horse. He had no ambition to mount a bicycle. He never had to fight potato bugs. We may safely conclude that he did not take pills, or bitters, or restoratives warranted to cure all diseases under the sun in one month, or money refunded.

He was never mashed to a jelly in a crowded horse car; never blown up in a steamboat where the life preservers were put away so safely that nobody could find them. He was never pestered of some of his arms and legs, and confined to death beds, in a railway collision, where nobody was to blame, and the company was not concerned.

As he did not have grown up we may conclude he never had to contend with teething, or nursing bottles soured, or the mumps, or the measles, or the whooping cough, or the rash, and, if he had no mother, of course he was never properly spanked, which may account for the mistaeps he made in his career.

His heart was never torn by the pangs of jealousy. He never had to stand by and keep cool, while Miss Eve walked off with the "other fellow," for the simple reason that the other fellow was not there to walk off with. He had not been born just then.

Adam, in all probability, never wore a stiff stand up collar, or a pair of pants in which he dared not sit down. He never ate oleomargarine, under the fond delusion that it was butter.

He never attended any lectures on health, to learn that all food was poison, and that nothing was wholesome for man to eat. He did not know what the modern man knows, that to be healthy we must starve, freeze and eschew all things called happiness, and take cold water baths and gymnastics and dandelion tea daily.

He never got divorced. He never committed a murder when he was insane. He never robbed a bank. He never ran away with another man's wife. He was a brave old fellow, and took great care of his farm, and he lived to be 930 years old, and died without knowing the multitude of troubles he had escaped by having been in existence at such an early stage of the world's history.

CURIOUS MARRIAGES.

Of the many interesting matters that come under the notice of the Registrar General, there is nothing more surprising than the frequency with which youth and age try the paths of matrimony together. The union of May and December is not nearly so rare as many persons suppose, and it is not always "the young lassie" that takes the "auld man." Of 3366 brides over 50 years of age who were married last year one secured a youth of 20, three were accommodated by men of 21, and fourteen others kept their choice of striplings below 25. In one of the last named cases, the good lady was forty years older than her partner Turning to the veterans among the husbands, there is even greater disparity. There were no fewer than 389 bridegrooms above 70 years of age, and of these one took a girl of 17, another one of 19, and four others kept under 21. Between 60 and 70 years of age 2084 men married, three of them took girls under 18, and twenty-seven others were content with partners who had not reached their majority. As many as 4576 males whose ages ranged between 50 and 60 were also brought to the hymeneal altar, and there again a score of wives were in their teens. A hundred were not more than 21, and 248 were under 25. Amongst other strange matches was one between a couple of octogenarians, while three ladies of "85 and upwards" got husbands whose ages were 75, 65 and 55 respectively. Taking the gentlemen of "85 and upwards," we find that one of them secured a bride of 45. But even greater contrasts are to be seen in the venerable Adams of 70 who got a mate of 21, and in the 75-year-old beau who secured a blushing damsel of 19. At the other end of the scale we have a marriage between a girl of 13 and a boy of 18, another where the contracting parties were 14 each, and a third in which men of 21 saddled themselves with wives of 14. Two husbands of 20 took partners whose ages were under 16, while of no fewer than 70 husbands 60 found wives of from 16 to 20 years of age.

AFTER A BIG THING.

About six weeks ago a man who claimed to be in hard luck entered a Detroit stove store and asked for money. The proprietor gave him a dime and a blowing up at the same time, and asked him why he did not brace up and try to do something.

"Say! I'll do it!" was the reply. "I'm already working at a big thing. It is a coal stove and refrigerator combined—one side to cool your provisions in summer and the other to heat your bodies in winter."

He was encouraged to go on, and in about two weeks he returned to inquire:

"Do you think it will make any difference which side is the stove and which the refrigerator?"

He was told that it would not, and he went away to be gone another fortnight, and then to return and ask:

"Wouldn't it be a good thing to arrange to save the heat of the stove to run a washing-machine?"

He was warmly complimented on the idea, and was not seen again until yesterday, when he returned with enthusiastic step to ask for a private interview and to say:

"Got another idea! I'm going to make the cold air which passes off the ice and escapes by the elevator run at least six fly-fans in the dining-room.

What I want just now is a capital of 1,000,000 dollars to enable me to experiment, and I shall write to parties in New York to-day. Meanwhile you advance me twenty-seven cents and take a first mortgage bearing 12 per cent interest in gold!"

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

Faults are always thick where love is thin.

Deeds are fruit; words are but mere leaves.

Be slow to promise and quick to perform.

The longest life is but so many moments.

One good mother is worth a dozen school-masters.

Be not afraid to die, for you will travel a well-beaten track.

He is comparatively idle who might be better employed.

Never be security for more than you are quite willing to lose

God gives every bird its food, but does not throw it into the nest.

Lose your head and lose the battle, Lose your heart and you have lost all.

You can lay it down as a sacred maxim that every man is wretched in proportion to his vices.

The shafts of sarcasm are only effective when barbed with the truth, tempered with justice, and feathered with wit.

Money will make us work, but money will not make us give our hearts to the work—nothing but love for our work or real good principle can make us do that.

Wisdom makes all the trouble, griefs and pains incident to life, whether casual adversities or natural afflictions, easy and supportable, by rightly valuing the importance and moderating the influence of them.

We are to remember that it is not so much by the words they speak, or by outwardly and apparently important actions, as by silent, unostentatious influence, that friends help every moment to mar or make our character.

A bad daughter seldom makes a good wife. If a girl is ill-tempered at home, cross at her parents, unjust at her brothers and sisters, and shirks her ordinary duties, the chances are ten to one that when she gets a home of her own she will make it wretched.

A smooth sea never made a skilful mariner, neither does uninterrupted prosperity and success qualify anyone for usefulness and happiness. The storms of adversity, like the storms of the ocean, arouse the faculties and excite the invention, prudence, skill and fortitude of the voyager.

He who does the best he can is always improving. His best of yesterday is outdone to-day, and his best of to-day will be outdone to-morrow. It is this steady progress, no matter from what point it starts, that forms the chief element of all greatness and goodness.

The exercise of every faculty is necessary to its development, and therefore to its life. Inaction, fully carried out, means stagnation and death. On the other hand, over-exercise of any part tends to exhaustion, and, if the period of rest necessary to restore its vigor be denied, it will wear itself out. Health and happiness require that these laws be recognized and obeyed.

Perhaps there is no more important art in all life than to receive the very-worst events of weal and woe in such a way that they may each develop something worthy in our characters. There is a latent power of good in them all, but too often it is never brought into action. Seneca says: "The good things that belong to prosperity are to be wished, but the good things that belong to adversity are to be admired."

No matter the rank of life, any woman, be she princess or peasant, who undertakes the care of a family becomes at once responsible for the welfare of that family, whether she actually toils for them with her own hands, as does the laborer's wife or simply oversees and superintends the work of others, as does the lady rich in all the goods of this world. The responsibility is there, and not one can escape it without risking not only her own happiness and welfare, but those of all connected with her.

HEIGHTS AND DISTANCES.

There are doubtless a large number of intelligent persons in every community, who, though not particularly interested or well versed in the study of mathematics, have often felt the importance of knowing some convenient and simple method for determining the heights of a tree or the width of a stream, and to whom such knowledge would be very useful and desirable. It is related of Dr. Livingston, the famous explorer, that when travelling in the wilds of Africa, he first came in view of the magnificent Victoria Falls he found himself without instruments; but the most provoking trial to him was that he had forgotten the simple mathematical rules of his school-boy days, and in great sorrow of heart he was obliged to turn away from this beautiful river without being able to calculate or even "guess" its dimensions. The erroneous estimates which are made of the height of trees, buildings and other objects, render desirable an easy and convenient method by measuring them; and many persons with a "liberal education" have doubtless found themselves in the unpleasant predicament of Dr. Livingstone, and regretted their inability to determine the height of some interesting object, or the distance across a river.

The height of a tree may be ascertained sufficiently exact for practical purposes by the following method: Stand in the vicinity of a tree, the height of which you may wish to know, and in your hand you carry a walking cane or