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The True Time.

It was many years ago that a lad in college asked one of the Professors, who was known to keep his watch right, to a second, if he would tell him the true time. What do you mean by true time? said the Professor, clock time or sun time? The student could only confess that he didn't know what kind of time he wanted, further than this—he wished to know whether his own time agreed with the Professor's, and that of course was right.

We never heard the question asked,—"Have you the true time?"—without being reminded of the Professor's troublesome question, and the boy's confusion at not being able to answer it. How many of our young friends now—may, even our readers of larger growth,—can tell us what true time is, and know whether the time they keep is that of the sun or the clock—or neither?

Well, now, will our more learned readers, pardon us if we discourse a little on this theme of Time, for the sake of younger readers. True time, then, is the correct time according to the standard adopted in any particular place. In all our principal towns, clock time is kept instead of sun time. This is true time in those places. If, however, in any country town, where there is not frequent communication with the city, and no accurate time keeper, to be relied on for the whole year, the people prefer to be guided by the sun, and call it noon when the sun reaches the meridian, then that is true time to them. But the time as kept by the different standards varies, in some parts of the year, more than fifteen minutes. Why is this? The average length of all the days in the year taken together is just twenty-four hours. A perfect watch or clock moving at a uniform rate through the year will divide all the days alike into twenty-four hours. But in fact some natural days, as measured by the sun from noon to noon, are less than twenty-four hours, and others more, by a few seconds. In a succession of days this small daily addition or subtraction as the case may be, amounts to several minutes. This difference is called the equation of time, and must be added or subtracted to make one kind of time agree with the other. As a practical question, it is difficult to which kind of time would be the most convenient for universal adoption. Sun time, certainly is most convenient where there are no reliable clocks. The old "noon mark" which the grandmothers in the country have blown the dinner horn by for many generations, was certainly much more reliable authority than a common Connecticut clock,—always supposing the aforesaid "mark" to have been right in the first place. The almanacs are calculated, some of them for clock and mean time, and others for sun or apparent time. If you look in your almanac and find that the sun sets, on the 1st of October or any other day,—just as many minutes before six as it rose after six, you may know that your almanac takes the sun for its standard, or is calculated for apparent time. In buying an almanac for next year then be careful to know in the first place, what kind of time you wish to keep. If you are in the vicinity of a railroad you do not want such an almanac, for their time is clock time and yours should be the same.

But what is the cause of this variation in the sun's time? The sun itself, everybody knows, so far as the earth is concerned, is stationary. The earth has a daily motion upon its axis which never varies. It has another motion in its orbit, revolving about the sun once in a year. This motion, owing to the elliptical or oval form of its path, or orbit, is sometimes faster than at others. When the earth is approaching the sun, its motion is accelerated; when it recedes from the point nearest to the sun, its motion is retarded. For convenience of illustration we will now suppose this annual motion of the earth transferred to the sun. Indeed this is the common way of speaking of it.—We say the sun passes eastward through the heavens entering the different signs or constellations, in its path, in successive months. Suppose, then, that it is now today. The sun is just south in the heavens. If it is now moving eastward at its average rate, it will be noon to-morrow in just twenty-four hours from noon today. But if the sun is moving faster than its average rate, when the earth has revolved on its axis twenty-four hours, the meridian on which we stand will not have come quite round to the sun because that has moved eastward a little too far. Thus when the twenty-four hours have elapsed and the clock strikes twelve, the sun has not reached the meridian yet, more properly speaking the meridian has not overtaken the sun. The sun will then be slow of the clock. This is the case at this season of the year. The earth is rapidly approaching its perihelion,—or point nearest the sun,—and is accelerating its motion under the stronger attraction of the sun. This acceleration of the earth's motion will

go on for some weeks until the clock's noon will be some minutes earlier than the sun's. The opposite of all this takes place when the earth is in its annual motion. When the sun in its signs, is fast, the sun at the meridian, or noon by the sun, will be "slow."

There is another cause of difference between clock and solar time,—and that is the obliquity of the sun's path in the ecliptic, which is not so easily explainable without figures or a globe. At the risk of an infliction upon our readers, we will explain briefly. Everybody knows what is meant by the sun's running high and running low. In other words, in progressing first northward and then southward the sun does not pass eastward at a uniform rate, but now faster, then slower. This inequality of apparent solar motion will cause the noon, as in the other case to be sometimes earlier, then again later than the average rate. These two causes combined account for the difference between mean or clock time and solar or apparent time.

The Sitting Room.

In a recent address before one of the county agricultural societies in Ohio, Prof. Fairchild, of Oberlin, argues the importance of comfortable and tasteful dwellings. He places the kitchen first, and claims that it should be furnished with all possible conveniences for making the necessary household labor easy, and then goes on to say:—

Next in order comes the family sitting room—a place where you and the wife and children may enjoy each other's society and help each other in the right pursuits of life after the labors of the day are over. A home is not a home without such arrangements. To eat and sleep is not the chief end of man. Even in reference to the present world, there are higher enjoyments of which we are capable, and nobler aspirations which claim our regard. There are social affections which, rightly cultivated, give us more elevated nature and wider range of enjoyment. It is for such a cultivation and for the attainment of such a happiness that "God hath set the solitary in families." But this object is, to a great extent, lost without arrangements corresponding to the end to be secured. There must be time and place for quiet and social intercourse—with books and periodicals and objects of taste at hand, which shall aid in the development of the mind and the heart. The place for these associations is the family sitting room. It is in fact the centre of home, the point to which the wanderer looks back with longing heart when far from his father's house. You supply, then, a great family necessity when you provide a comfortable, quiet, tasteful room, with suitable furniture, in all particulars inviting as a gathering place for your family at home.

Does any one object that such arrangements are too nice and fanciful for a farmer's house? That it is better to spend the evening before the old fashioned kitchen fire—where apples can be pared, and hickory-nuts cracked, and axe helves whittled, without any fear of detriment to carpets and sofas? Allow me to suggest, my friend, that you are the very one that needs that sitting room, with its elevating and humanizing influences. Nuts and apples, and axe helves are all good in their place; but you and your children have hearts and minds as well as stomachs. Unbend your back a little, and look up to the blue heavens above you. The view shall kindle within you the latent spark of immortality. Look around upon the brutes that perish, and acknowledge that you are not like one of them. Drop your axe helve, then, and devote the evening hour to your higher nature. The farmer who finds no use for a sitting room is not a man for Northern Ohio in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Attention the Court.

A friend of ours has just been mentioning that on one occasion he was addressing "the court," at the bar of one of the middle States upon a subject of great moment to his client when his attention was arrested by a singular circumstance.

He observed that when he dwelt upon the particular point of his argument which he wished especially to enforce, "the court's" head went down behind his elevated desk, and presently rose again.

Changing his position slightly, he saw the mystery of this singular occurrence; and when soon after, it was repeated, he paused in his remarks and said:

"When 'the court' has finished eating its watermelon I shall proceed with my argument, not without the hope of being at least partially heard!"

"Old Bachelors—Leafless trunks in a garden of roses. Each dwelling is to them a suggestion—each bird's nest a standing admonition."

The proper time to apply liquid Manure to Plants.

The question has been many times asked, "when is the most suitable time to apply liquid manure to plants." Something depends on the nature of the plant, and much upon the object to be gained. The effect of this liquid is to produce exuberant growth; and this it will continue to do so long as the temperature and light required for its action are sufficient. If, then, wood and leaves are all that the cultivator desires to obtain, liquid manure may be freely used from the time when the first bud breaks, until it is necessary that the ripening process of the wood should commence; for wood cannot ripen so long as it is growing; and it will continue to grow so long as leaves form; and the rate of its growth will be in direct proportion to their rate of development; therefore, in order to ripen wood, the growth must be arrested. But the growth will not be arrested so long as liquid manure is applied, except in an injuriously low temperature. It must therefore be withheld from plants grown for their wood and leaves solely, when two thirds of the season shall have elapsed. It is decidedly injurious to many plants to administer it later.

In regard to flowers, the application of this fluid is unfavorable to their immediate production,—because the more leaves a plant forms, the fewer the blossoms that season. And though the blossoms may be so far advanced in their rudimentary state, when the liquid is applied, that their number cannot be diminished, yet the effect of this exuberance will be to occasion deformity,—and the flowers will be inferior. We should therefore be careful how we use liquid manure if we desire to improve the quality of the flowers.

It is said, by an English florist, that the proper time for applying it, with a view to heighten the beauty of the flowers, is undoubtedly when the buds are large enough to show that the elementary organization is completed, consequently beyond the reach of derangement. If the floral apparatus has once taken upon itself the natural condition no exuberance will afterwards affect it; the parts which are small will simply grow larger and acquire brighter colors; for these changes in flowers which cause monstrous development, appear to take effect only when the organs are in a nascent state—at the very moment of their birth. Hence it is clear, that in order to affect flowers advantageously by liquid manure, it should be given to plants at the time when the flower-bud is formed and just ready to swell more rapidly.

GIVE HIM THE MITTEN.—"Ah, mon dieu!" said Monsieur Melemots to his friend Sniffins,—"my sweetheart has given me de mitten. Indeed!—how did that happen? Well, I thought I must go and make her one viset before I leave town; so I step in de side of de room, and dere I behold her beautiful pairson stretch out on one lazy. A lounge you mean. Ah, yes—von lounge. And den I make von ver polite bow, and— You mean a polite bow. Ah, yes—von bow. And den I say I was ver sure she would be rotten, if I did not come to see her before!— You said what? I said she would be rotten, if— That's enough. You have, 'put your foot in it,' to be sure. No, sare. I put my foot out of it, for she say she would call her sare big brother, and keek me out, be gar. I had intention to get mortified, but I could not tink of de vord, and mortify and rot is all de same as von, in my dictionary."

QUIZZING A QUIZZER.—A professional gentleman of our acquaintance has hanging in his room a fine large colored engraving of the head of a quadruped, vulgarly known as a jackass. Not long since, a friend of his dropped in, and stopping before the picture, gazed intently upon it for a few moments, and then called out abruptly, and as he imagined very wittily—

Hallo, doctor, is that your portrait? Oh, no, replied the doctor, coolly, that's simply a looking glass. The "anxious enquirer" suddenly discovered that he had some business down the street, and departed.

EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE!—A western editor on entering his office, and seeing his apprentice boy cutting up some queer capers, called out to him—

"Jim, what are you lying on the floor for?" "Why, sir, I have had a shock!" "A shock!—What kind of a shock?" "Why, sir," said the lad gazing, "one of your subscribers came in during your absence, and he owed for two years' subscription, paid it and also another year in advance!"

"In advance!" gasped the editor, nearly as much overcome as his lone apprentice.

"Yes sir, and it has produced such an effect upon me that I have been helpless ever since."

And well you may Jim. But, get up, if you survive this you are safe, as there is little prospect of such another catastrophe in this office.

FOUR DAYS LATER.

Circassian arrived at St. John's N. F., at 2 o'clock p. m., 26th Sep.

Officially announced that the Great Eastern leaves Holyhead, for Portland Oct. 28. Scott Russell undertakes to complete repairs in three weeks.

Further details from China unimportant. Letters say Americans evinced warmest sympathy for Allies and performed many acts of kindness.

Reported that England is about to send strong naval force, and France has ordered 12,000 troops to be ready to depart.

Nothing doing at Zurich.

Reported that both the Empress Eugenie and Princess Clotilde are en route.

The King of Sardinia has received deputations from the National Assemblies of Modena and Parma regarding annexation. He acquiesces in their views, and promised to support them before the Great Powers, and expressed a hope that Europe, having recognised the right of nations to form their own constitutions, will not deny it to Italy.

Military movements indicate determination of Italians to rely on themselves.

Austria could increase military in Italy, and asserted France had still nearly 100,000 troops there.

Spanish expedition against Moors fixed at 12,000, and transports all ready.

Red Sea Telegraph Company invite public business over completed portion of their line from 1st October.

Koorigin & Co., St. Petersburg, failed—liabilities heavy—engaged in tallow speculations.

Manchester advices favorable. Breadstuffs generally closed with advancing tendency. Consols 95½ to 95¾.

Money market slightly easier.

Fraud by an American Sea Captain.

The Baltimore Patriot states that brig Echo had arrived in that city, in command of the mate, Mr. Heede, the captain having run away from the vessel.

The brig belongs to Messrs. Stirling & Ahrens of this city, from whom chartered by Maitland, Phelps & Co. of New York. A cargo valued at \$12,000 or \$15,000, was shipped on board the brig, which cleared in command of Capt. Wm. S. Clough, in July last, for Trinidad. In addition to the cargo, the Echo had three passengers, besides five or six children who were going to Trinidad.

Instead of going to that port, the Captain stopped at Barbadoes, where all the passengers were landed, the captain giving each of them drafts on Messrs. Stirling & Ahrens the owners of the vessel, in sufficient amounts to cover the expenses which they might sustain by not going to their original destination. He then sailed for Guadaloupe, where he endeavored to dispose of the cargo, but not succeeding, in a few hours he proceeded to St. Thomas, and put the cargo in the hands of J. F. Permon & Co., a mercantile house on that island. The firm gave him a letter of credit for \$5,000 on account of Messrs. Stirling & Ahrens, who have received advices that he had negotiated the letter of credit at Mayaguez, which place he sailed to from St. Thomas. After transacting the latter business he represented that he was going to Turks Island to procure a cargo of salt but instead thereof he sailed for Kingston, Jamaica where he absconded in company with a female whom he had taken on board at quarantine the same day he sailed from Barbadoes. As he took passage in a vessel bound to Aspinwall, it is supposed he is on his way either to California or the Sandwich Islands.

PROVINCETOWN, Sept. 19. The steamer Chesapeake, Crowell, from Portland for N. York, put into this harbor at 11 o'clock today, with seven feet of water in her hold.

The Chesapeake left Portland at 5 o'clock on Saturday, and at 2 o'clock, A. M. Sunday, the wind blowing a perfect gale, and a heavy sea running, hove the steamer to, Cape Cod bearing S. 35 miles. At 5 o'clock she was making water fast; sounded the pumps and found seven feet of water in her. Immediately bore up for the land, with the intention of running her ashore in case they could do no better. Has thrown overboard 50 or 60 tons cargo, consisting of syrup, sugar, oil &c. The C. is deeply laden, and the cargo is probably much damaged in the lower hold. She makes but little water in the harbor. The passengers, 19 in number, were all landed here. Capt. Crowell will

wait for instructions from owners and underwriters before proceeding.

In New York on the 20th, a violent assault was made upon Mr. Thompson, one of the editors of the "Daily News," by one Frank McCabe, a Tammany politician. The editor's nose was broke and he was otherwise injured. The assault grew out some remarks in the News upon the recent Syracuse convention.

A STABBING AFFRAY took place in Boston on Saturday last, the assailant being Dr. Ayer, of Lowell, whose name is widely known to the reading public. The wounded man is R. S. Fay Jr., the treasurer of the Middlesex Mill, and the affair took place in his office. It appears that harsh words passed upon Dr. Ayer, asking for the books of the corporation, and after some altercation, the latter stabbed Fay with a penknife in the abdomen, but the wound was not considered dangerous. He was admitted to bail in the sum of \$20,000.—[New Brunswick.]

SPORTING EXTRAORDINARY.—The eccentric Englishman, who joined Garibaldi's corps from pure love of sporting at such high game as Austrians, always took out his memorandum book and made a note on't every time he brought down one of the enemy. The results of his seasons' shooting counted up 25 head killed certainly, and 19 more under the head of "uncertain." Among others Garibaldi had two Frenchmen, members of the Paris Jockey Club, five Americans, a few Germans, and one Chinaman.

ROBBERY AT BAIE VERTE.—The Sackville Borderer gives the following account of a robbery at Baie Verte:—

"On Tuesday afternoon last a man entered the hall at C. Oulton, Esq.'s dwelling house, and selected from his stock of top coats the best one, after which he helped himself to two flasks of powder, and a silk kerchief. The kitchen door being closed, where the females were busily engaged, he was not heard, and was walking away with his booty, when a lynx-eyed youth, son of Mr. James Hewson, who had seen the man going towards Mr. O.'s house, coastless, and observing him coming out, much improved in external appearance, and suspecting he had stolen it, ran to a field, where the owner of the coat was busily engaged, who upon hearing the above examined his wardrobe, and pursued the thief, whom he overtook and brought before John Reed J. Carey, Esq., by whom he was committed to prison. It has since been ascertained that he has been committing similar depredations at Shediac, where he entered a dwelling house at midnight, stole a watch worth \$24, which he sold immediately afterwards for \$2. He gave his name as David Dunlap."

A Monkey in an Apron.

Lady Napier herself related to me a rather amusing incident in connection with animals. As she and Sir Charles were coming down the Mahabeshwar Hills they chose to pitch their tent and remain for the night on a spot which was inhabited by a tribe of monkeys. These beasts were drawn by their intense curiosity close to the travellers, and Lady Napier sent for some nuts, put them in to the pocket of her apron and fed one which was bolder and tamer than the rest with them. When they withdrew into the tent, guests likewise retreated.

On awaking next morning, Lady Napier was startled at finding that her purse which was in the pocket of her apron had been stolen in the night. An inquiry was instantly made and a search instituted in her room for it, but in vain; and she had come to the conclusion that some of those Indian robbers who can steal the sheets from under one unfelt and unseen, had carried off her property for the loss was considerable. When walking by chance into the back enclosure of the tent she found her friend the monkey seated in grave dignity with her apron on, imitating her yesterday's action, and supplying the want of nuts with her gold and silver coins, which he scattered liberally around him. He was offered to empty the purse, and then they tried to watch him, but so far as we remember, but did not succeed; he returned to his woods clad in a black satin apron, and doubtless played for the future the part of the monkey who had seen the world.

The London Diogenes reports that the young lady with speaking eyes has become quite house in consequence of using them to much.

An Albany lady—a lady of experience,—contents that a kiss on the forehead denotes reverence for the intellect; a kiss on the cheek, that the donor is impressed with the beauty of the kissed; one on the lips shows love.