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CHESTERFIELD AND ORATORY

Lord Chesterfield's letters are, I will venture to say, masterpieces of good taste, good writing and good sense.

Oratory and Hard Work—Delicateness, the celebrated Greek orator, thought it so absolutely necessary to speak well, that though he naturally stammered, and had weak lungs, he resolved, by application and care, to get the better of those disadvantages. Accordingly, he cured his stammering by putting small pebbles into his mouth; and strengthened his lungs gradually, by using himself every day to speak aloud and distinctly for a considerable time. He likewise went often to the seashore, in stormy weather, when the sea made most noise, and there spoke aloud as he could, in order to use himself to the noise and murmurs of the popular assemblies of the Athenians, before whom he was to speak. By such care, joined to the constant study of the best authors, he became at last the greatest orator of his own or any other age or country, though he was born without any one natural talent for it. Adieu! Copy Demosthenes.

CARNEGIE AND DRINK

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, whose own experience fits him to speak with authority as to the temptations that make for a successful business career, says in his book "The Empire of Business": "The first and most seductive peril, and the destroyer of most young men, is the drinking of liquor. I am no temperance lecturer in disguise, but a man who knows and tells you what observation has proved to him and I say to you that you are more likely, to fall in your career from acquiring the habit of drinking liquor, than from any or all the other temptations likely to assail you. You may yield to almost any other temptation and reform—may brace up, and if not recover lost ground, at least remain in the race, and secure and maintain a respectable position. But from the insane thirst for liquor, escape is almost impossible. I have known but few exceptions to this rule.

As a Pearl of Great Price

There is no power of love so hard to get and keep as a kind voice. A kind hand is deaf and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft heart, and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet voice to tell what it means and feels; and it is hard to get and keep it in the right tone. One must start in youth, and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. It is often in youth that one gets a voice or tone that is sharp, and which sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill-will and griefs, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys of home. Watch it day by day, as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in the end than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is to the heart what light is to the eye. It is a light that sings as well as shines.

Not Your Own Face

"My boy," said a wise father who knew how to play and be a "chum" with his twelve-year-old lad, "my boy, you do not own your own face. The boy looked puzzled. He had come to the breakfast table with a frowning, clouded countenance, and had started moodily to eat his food. Everybody felt the show of his ill spirits; evident in his looks. His father's unexpected words brought him back to life, and he looked up with a half-guilty expression, but did not understand what was meant. "You do not own your face," his father repeated. "Do not forget that it belongs to other people. They, not you, have to look at it. You have no right to compel them to look at a sour, gloomy and crabbed face."

Shoe Shops of Japan

Writing about the shops of Japan a visitor to that country says that the typical shoe store makes a strange impression on the foreign visitor. "All the footwear of the little brown men are here in view. The funny wooden clogs and straw sandals are indeed a fanciful exhibition. They line the benches, the floors, the shelves. They hang from above, and seemingly are everywhere, allowing the seller just about enough room to squat on his mat. The newcomer is at once startled at the immense quantity of this simple footwear and the many places where it is sold, but he soon finds a solution to his query when he hears that a Japanese man annually makes away with from eight to ten pairs."

Logical Reasoning.

"It's difficult to understand the peculiar mental processes of the relatives of some of the offenders who appear before me," said Justice Wilkin, as a starter for his story. "Only yesterday a boy was charged with stealing coal. He simply had been told in his home to go out and get some coal. He did, and was arrested. I had to adjourn his case, and asked his sister, who was with him, to appear at the second hearing. "What! Do I have to come down here again?" she asked. "You'd better," said I, "for your brother may be sent away for a long time." "But who's going to pay the car fare?" she said. "Why, I suppose yourself! Whom do you expect to pay it?" "Why, the coal dealer who had Jimmy arrested!" she said. "Why the coal dealer?" I asked. "Because he has more money than we have," she replied.

Let no man who only pays regard to the fruits of success think that he can brise forth the fruits of his Spirit.

If you love a bad man he will soon hate some of his badness.

IN COMMERCIAL LIFE

The Exaltation of the Trust at the Expense of the Individual is the Principle Today.

In commercial life, perhaps as nowhere else, these rushing, strenuous times, when all sorts of get-rich-quick schemes are wrought with avidity in all circles where wealth is worshipped, do we see the abatement and elimination of the individual and the exaltation of the firm, the combine, the trust, the union, the league, the association. Small dealers are unmercifully frozen out by the trust, without any consideration of personal rights; and the same principles are followed in the labor organizations toward the individual worker who may choose to retain his manhood and his God-given independence. The history of the Standard Oil Company, and others in other fields, in heaping up riches, is a copy-book march over the wrecks of humbler fortunes, the subversion of personal rights, and the ruin of human life. "To live and to let live" has led to "to get by any means, fair or foul," only as the pale shadow of a possible perversion of the law.

Queen Mary's Pantry

Queen Mary's pantry at Windsor is said to contain the most valuable collection of tableware in the world. Every reign since Queen Elizabeth's has contributed to the collection, which is stored in two rooms. The walls are lined with cases made of plate glass and mahogany, with similar cases occupying the centre of each room. The most imposing feature of these two rooms is the dinner service of solid gold used there "or dinners of the highest state. Only a table of solid silver three feet in length. A rosewater fountain of silver has a home supported on the columns around which are groomed horses and hounds. A silver gilt flagon almost a yard high is said to have been saved from the Armada. A pair of bellows mounted in silver and gold was once the property of Nell Gwynn. There is a massive pair of firetongs in solid silver made for Charles II, and a huge punch bowl was contributed by George IV.

Legislative "Howlers."

According to the official records, the Arizona Legislature recently passed a measure establishing a Horticultural Commission with powers "to employ an etymologist." Whereupon an American Journal aptly remarks that, in view of the wording of the bill itself, an etymologist would not be a bad catch after all. The Journal has collected a few more curiosities of the same type. One of them is also from Arizona, which has made it a misdemeanor to pluck an ostrich feather or plume "without the consent of the possessor." The Kentucky statutes forbid "the discharge at random" of any "deadly weapon, whether said weapon be loaded or unloaded," and a Missouri enactment, in prescribing the ingredients which may lawfully be used in the manufacture of liquor, omits any mention of water. But is it not in Missouri that your tailor asks you what size you will have your lip pockets—pints or quarts?

HIDDEN VALUES

The most undesirable and unattractive work will develop charm if one puts his whole heart into it and endeavors to do it better than it has been done before. The most commonplace lives have about them possibilities of romance, tragedy, and humor that discover themselves to the one who ministers to these lives with a brave and resolute heart. Browning's masterpiece, one of the very greatest poems that was ever written, "The Ring and the Book," sprang out of the manuscript report of a law case found in an old curiosity shop in Florence and purchased for 16c. To most people that old document would be worth no more than its value as waste paper and of as little interest as the dead leaves that the wind scatters over the fields.

So in the midst of the most unpromising conditions, if one puts his whole soul into his work and looks for its hidden value he may find it invested with a beauty and a delight that were quite unsuspected.

Novel Funeral Service

In the cranberry belt of Plymouth County, music by phonograph at a funeral has just been introduced with great success. The first funeral to mark the introduction of the phonograph was that of Ralph U. Graftum. The Rev. W. W. Dornan officiated. Arrangements had been made for the assistance of a quartette from Plymouth. At the last minute the singers sent word that on account of the excessive heat they would have to be excused. There was great disappointment until the time came for the singing of "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." At just the right time a quartette was singing the exquisite old hymn so beautifully that nobody missed the Plymouth singers. One of the neighbors, witnessing the disappointment of the mourners at the news from Plymouth, had quietly slipped out, got into her buggy and drove home for the family phonograph. When she came back she brought several records, among them "Rock of Ages," "Lead, Kindly Light," and "Abide With Me."

Polite Children

A child should be drilled to be occupationally polite to every person he comes in contact with, to the members of his family, to the employee in the kitchen or chamber, and to the guest within his father's gate. Children who are not obliged to be polite to their elders and to one another will not suddenly become well bred when strangers are present. They should not take the most comfortable seats or the most advantageous positions, but be observing and offer such attentions to their elders, and the boys to their sisters.

Self-stirrers sympathy, and sympathy casts out self.

BABY WEIGHED 150 POUNDS.

His Name is Flip-Flop and He is a Wairus in a Zoo.

There is in the New York Zoo an extraordinary specimen of the Atlantic wairus which was caught in Kane Basin. He is yet a baby only six months old, and for homeliness and comical facial expression he is to be equaled. For every day his keeper he has nothing but bread, but for him he will go anywhere and do anything. His affections began to show itself by his flopping backward way after his keeper's feet time he moved. For this the keeper called him Flip-flop, and this has been shortened to Flip.

The keeper was anxious to catch him one day. This would have been something of an undertaking, considering the circumstances as the wairus machine was some distance from the gate was opened, the keeper went out, saying: "Come on, Flip, and out came the young wairus. He allowed him not only to the keeper, but on the keeper, where, by a long time he was so fat that he was long enough to be weighed. Flip weighed at the time of his capture 150 pounds. Since then he has gained enormously, as he has a good appetite. He eats over 20 pounds of fish daily—three meals a day—the shape of clams, codfish and butterfish, from which all the bones are first carefully removed. He always seems to be ravenously hungry and eats greedily, with many growls, and flips and sighs.

BURGULAR ALARMS

Every renter has his own idea of what constitutes a desirable neighborhood," said the renting agent. "A tenant hung back from signing a lease for six hours the other day because I could not tell him whether anybody in the block was taking the fresh-air cure. He was so insistent that I finally made inquiry and learned from the janitor at No. 225 that a man on the third floor of his building sleeps every night with his head stuck out of the window, and then the tenant signed the lease. "His precaution was due to fear of burglars. He has learned, he says, that the best burglar alarm ever invented is the fresh-air cure. Not even the doctors who advise it know so well as the second-story men how many people sleep with their heads out of the window. They know because the habit interferes with their business. Whole blocks that used to be profitable hunting grounds for burglars are now so much waste space because two or three persons in the block go to bed with the upper half of the body protruding beyond the window sill. Outdoor sleepers may sleep comfortably, but they sleep lightly. The second-story man cannot make a noise half a block away without waking them and giving the alarm."

PROVED HIS POINT

The reason he wouldn't call up the Connecticut town that night to learn how Aunt Lucinda was, the man said, was because Bill's wife was pretty sure to come to the telephone, and he couldn't stand it to talk to Bill's wife. Wait till morning and he would call Bill up at the office and find out. "What is the matter with Bill's wife?" asked Aunt Lucinda's New York niece. "She's a fool," said the man, "especially over the long distance telephons. I telephoned up there once. Bill's wife answered. It cost me \$4 for the three-minute conversation, and the only thing I could get out of Bill's wife was, 'Hello, hello. Who is this?' "At the very last second she understood and said, 'Oh, it is you, is it?' I call that pretty expensive identification. But I will say this for Bill's wife. She is no worse than other women. The most level-headed of them get flighty when suddenly confronted with a long distance telephone message. The woman's defense of her sex was cut short by a call to the telephone. She stepped into the hall and closed the door. "Hello," she said. "Hello. Who is this, please. What's that? Yes, that is the right number. Who are you, please? What's that? I can't make it out."

Seconds ticked away and still she reiterated, "Hello, hello. Who are you, please?" Finally, in desperation the man took the receiver from her hand. He talked for five or ten seconds and then said, "Good-bye." "That was Bill," he said. "He wanted to tell me something about Aunt Lucinda, but time was up and he didn't get a chance."

JIM'S WIFE.

After the report had been current for a week that Jim's wife, whom Jim had met and married and was still secluding in Chicago, was only as sin, a friend who had Jim's interests at heart ran down the author of the rumor with the intention of making her retract. "How do you know she is ugly?" he asked. "Have you ever seen her?" "No," said the experienced gossip. "I never have, neither have I seen her picture, nor anybody who has seen either her or her picture, but I know she is ugly, because I had it straight from a person who lives in Chicago that when she ordered a dozen pictures taken just a while before the wedding the photographer made her pay in advance, and a photographer never does that unless the subject is so ugly that she is apt to be discouraged when she sees the pictures and refuses to pay for them good work. If you don't believe me ask any photographer." But Jim's champion let the matter drop.

Such is Fame

It was a Bostonian, according to Rollin Lynde Hart, in an article called "Fanny Boston," in the Metropolitan Magazine, who envied the Longfellow centenary by blurring. "Say, that guy makes me sick! He'd never 'a' been heard of if he hadn't married Alice Roosevelt."

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