

PURE GOLD

PUT DOWN THE BRAKES.

No matter how well the track is laid, No matter how strong the engine is made, When you find it running the downward grade,

Put down the brakes!

If the demon of drink has entered the soul, And his power is getting beyond your control, And dragging you on to a terrific goal, Put down the brakes!

Remember the adage, "Don't trifle with fire," Temptation you know is always a liar; If you want to crush out the burning desire,

Put down the brakes!

Are you running in debt by living too fast? Do you look back with shame on a profitless past, And feel that your ruin is coming at last?

Put down the brakes!

Whether for knowledge, or for honor and gain, You are fast wearing out your body and brain, 'Till nature no longer can bear the strain.

Put down the brakes!

The human is weak, since Adam's fall, Beware how you yield to appetite's call. Be temperate in all things," says practical Paul;

Put down the brakes!

Ah, a terrible thing is human life! Its track with many a danger is rife; Do you seek for the victor's crown in the strife?

Put down the brake

Varieties.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot? -Not if they have money.

A Provident and yet Improvident Man—baker, he kneads much, but sells everything he kneads himself.

If you have a sister, love and cherish her with a holy friendship. And if you have none, why, love somebody else's sister.

A German writer complaining of the difficulties in the pronunciation of the English language, cites the word Box, which he says is pronounced Dickens.

An Ohio paper says that Colorado bugs are sitting around on fences offering 78 cents a bushel for potatoes, and a dollar a day for hands to plant them.

The Cleveland Leader thinks it has enough poetry on hand to last till next Fall, but if the spring is backward, and the fires have to be kept up, it will probably need more.

A Detroit man who had no ear for music confessed as much when he frankly owned that, "If I were the proprietor of a hand-organ, sat expressly to play Old Hundred, I couldn't get over seventy-five out of it.

"Safe" Sausages.—At an Irish breakfast-table a traveller from the East handed to one of his fellow-travellers a plate of sausages; whereupon the question was asked, "Are they safe?" He was met with the reply, "This is a prolific pig country, and it is safe to eat sausages wherever pig is cheaper than dog."

A Rural gent of eighteen summers invested in a banana on the cars recently. He carefully removed the peel and put it on the seat by his side; then he broke the fruit up in small bits, eyeing it anxiously as he did so. When this was done he picked up the peel, shook it in his lap, and finally threw the pieces out of the window remarking as he did so, "That's the fast of them prize packages I ever bought an' its the last, you bet."

A Forlorn widower, after much reflection, composed the following epitaph for his wife's tombstone:

Thou hast gone before me To thy last and long sleep; Tears cannot restore thee, Therefore I weep."

"Dat's de Way de White Folks Does."

—Sam Johnson, of New Orleans, was a great authority among his fellows, and one day he called his satellites together. "Niggers," said he, "if yer want to get rich, ye must sbe yer money. You must hab a bank. Dat's de way de white folks does." The project was swift, ly put into execution, and the earnings of the week were promptly forthcoming. "Niggers," said Sam, "I will be de cashier; yer must 'posit de money wid me, and when yer want any, yer must draw on to it. Dat's de way de white folks does." All went merrily for a while, but by-and-by there began to be trouble.

It was found easier to get funds into this model institution than to get them out again. "It's all right," says Sam. "de banks only suspended, and in a few days she will 'gain resume; dat's de way de white folks does." This expedient lasted but a little while, however; and the storm was about to burst on the head of the great operator, when he found it expedient to gather once more his infuriated depositors. "Niggers," said he, "dar ain't no use a movin' about it! De money's spent, and de bank's broke; and dat's de way de white folks does."

Policeman, spare that dog, touch not a single hair; he worries many a hog from out his muddy lair. Oh, when he was a pup, so frisky and so plump, he lapped his milk from a cup, when hungry, at a jump. And then his funny tricks, so funny in their place, so full of canine licks upon your hands and face. You will surely let him live! Oh, do not kill him—dead; he wags his narrative, and prays for life—not lead. Go get the muzzle now and put upon his mouth, and stop that bow, wow, wow, and tendency to drouth. He is your children's pet companion of their joy; you will not kill him yet, and thus their hopes destroy. No, policeman, spare that pup; touch not a single hair; oh, put your pistol up, and go away from there!

Do not be above your business. He who turns up his nose at work quarrels with bread and butter. He is a poor smith who is afraid of his own sparks; there's some discomfort in all trades except chimney-sweeping. If sailors give up going to sea because of the wet; if bakers left off baking bread because it is hard work; if plowmen would not plough because of cold, and tailors would not make our clothes for fear of pricking their fingers, what a pass we would come to. Nonsense my fine fellow, there's no shame about any honest calling, don't be afraid of soiling your hands, there's plenty of soap to be had. All trades are good to good traders. Lucifer matches pay well if you sell enough of them. You cannot get honey if you are frightened at bees, nor plant corn if you are afraid of getting mud on your boots. When bars of iron melt under the south wind, when you can dig the fields with toothpicks, blow ships along with fans, manure the crops with lavender water, and grow plum cakes in flowerpots, there will be a fine time for dandies; but until the millennium comes we shall have a deal to put up with.

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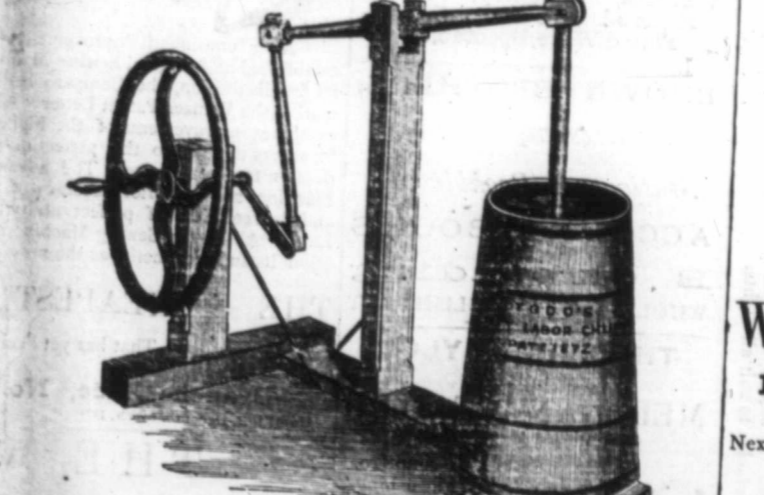
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